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Meretz stakes claim to Interior Ministry

SARAH HONG

MERETZ yesterday demanded an "executive portfolio" should the cabinet be reshuffled, thereby staking its claim to the Interior Ministry.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni and Meretz Knesset faction chairman Ran Cohen are to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the matter.

The move is seen as intensifying the considerable pressure Rabin is already under over resigning the Interior and Religious Affairs portfolios, formerly held by Shas.

Several Labor MKs and ministers covet the portfolios, and were Rabin to satisfy all the ambitions at play, he would need to engage in a wide-ranging reshuffle. But this could spark coalition infighting.

According to the minister-MK ratio, Meretz doesn't deserve a new portfolio, but it wants to trade one of its portfolios for one considered more important.

Meretz had made it clear that if portfolios are to be switched around it wants to be compensated for what Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein called the "repeated knocks that Meretz had to take from the time the coalition took office. We were the ones who had to pay the price for Shas's foibles, and we demand to be compensated now."

He was thought to be referring in particular to Shas's demand that Aloni be ousted from the Education Ministry. She was then given the Communications Ministry, with the addition of the Culture part of the former Education and Culture portfolio.

The Interior Ministry is seen as one of the most important in the government. Meretz pointed out that it had never been under Labor control, and that it therefore need not go to Labor now. Before it came under Shas's control, Interior had traditionally been a National Religious Party power base, as had the Religious Affairs Ministry.

Meretz also came out against adding new Labor ministers to the cabinet, a move Rabin is under particularly heavy pressure to make. Yossi Beilin and Rafi Ederi are clamoring for portfolios, and some in the party are also seeking cabinet seats for former chief of general staff Ehud Barak and Hissadri Chairman Haim Ramon.

Meanwhile, Union of Local Authorities chairman Adi Eldar has started collecting signatures from mayors and local authority head in favor of giving Interior to Police Minister Moshe Shahal. Transport Minister Kessar wants the portfolio as well, while Tourism Minister Uzi Baram and Economics Minister Shimon Shetret are vying for Religious Affairs.

Shas informally requested that Rabin do nothing about its former ministries without its approval, if he does not wish to send it into active opposition. Shas does not want any of its appointees fired, and it wants the portfolios to be assigned to serving ministers for "safekeeping."



IDF soldiers look for bullet casings at the site of yesterday's terrorist ambush of a gasoline truck near Nahal Oz. One of the truck's guards was killed and the other wounded.

Peres meets with UN Security Council

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres met with the UN Security Council yesterday to advise members, along with representatives of some Arab states, of the status of the peace process in the region.

After the hour-long meeting, Peres noted that the nature of the confrontation had changed, from a conflict between enemies to a confrontation between two positions—those that support the peace process and those who oppose it.

"The Security Council should be informed" of developments, Peres told reporters. "With the disappearance of ideological differences between West and East, we feel we have a better chance in the United Nations to put forward our position."

When asked about the Israeli public's atti-

tude toward the peace process in light of the most recent terror attack, the foreign minister said, "Our policy is the right one. We got a mandate. We don't have to test our popularity."

Earlier yesterday, Peres and Dr. Fayez Tarawna, Jordan's envoy to the US, met with 60 American business leaders to gain support for business projects in the region. These include a railroad connecting the Dead and Red seas, and a tourism complex on the Jordanian-Israeli border at the Dead Sea.

On the second day of a five-day visit to the US, Peres used numerous opportunities to

stress that the government has called on PA leader Yasser Arafat to convince the Israeli public that he is attempting to curb terrorism.

That issue was being taken to the frigid streets of New York last night. A newly formed group, the American Jewish Coalition for a Safe Israel, was scheduled to hold a vigil for the Jews who have died since the signing of the DOP. In the last week, the group has taken out newspaper ads quoting President Ezer Weizman: "This is not a peace process; it's a bloody process."

As the group was planning its event outside the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, Peres and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali were due to attend a ceremony inside dedicating the Shimon Peres Center for the Advancement of Peace at the University of Haifa.

Curb terror groups - US tells Syrian ambassador

HILLEL KUTTNER
WASHINGTON

SYRIAN Ambassador Walid Mualem returned here Sunday night after a one-month absence, to confront American demands that Damascus rein in terrorist groups.

At the top of the US agenda is having Syria address its harboring of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shikaki, who claimed credit for last month's Beit Lid killings.

Israeli officials said yesterday that Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich's resumption of talks with Mualem might not occur until next week.

The US-Syrian talks will likely start today, Israeli officials said. Meanwhile, Lebanese representatives began two days of discussions with administration officials here yesterday on a request to have the State Department lift its travel ban to Lebanon.

The administration will not formally decide on whether to extend the ban for an additional six-month period until the meetings conclude today.

The Lebanese delegation does not include state security officials out of concern that the US would seek to broaden the talks to encompass Hizballah operations in the country, a representative of a Lebanese-American organization told the Post.

Lebanon is also seeking US permission to allow resumption of flights here by Middle East Airlines. However, US officials say, the US still needs to be convinced that the Beirut airport is secure enough to prevent terrorists from boarding overseas flights.

The recent bombings and hijackings of planes in the Philippines and in Algeria, an official said, "illustrates there are still people in various parts of the world interested in blowing up airplanes."

The State Department talks "are taking place against a background of these kinds of concerns... It raises questions of whether there are fundamentalist groups out there that'll use airports that are weak."

Deputy assistant secretary of Near East Affairs Toni Verstandig told a visiting Lebanese business delegation here last week that Lebanon's "valid concerns" over the travel ban "have to be weighed against an even more important consideration: the value of American lives."

Jihad leader: Attacks on Israel will continue

DAMASCUS (Reuter) - The leader of the Islamic Jihad group which killed 21 people at Beit Lid last month said yesterday that Syria had not asked him to leave, despite calls by Israel to do so.

Fathi Shikaki told Reuters in an interview in his office in Damascus that attacks against Israel, similar to the suicide bombing north of Tel Aviv, would continue until the end of the Israeli occupation.

"None of the Syrian officials has contacted us since the operation," Shikaki said. "The Syrians are dealing with me as an ordinary Arab citizen... our presence here is not a military one it is a political and informational presence."

"The Israelis should expect more military attacks as long as they continue to occupy our lands, deprive our people of their rights and try to impose unfair deals on Palestinians," he said.

After the Cairo summit, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin repeated Israel's objection to Syria allowing groups who oppose the Middle East process to operate on Syrian soil.

"The Syrians must take into account that it is inconceivable to allow a murderer like Shikaki to sit in Damascus, to make televi-

sion announcements and at the same time say 'we want peace'."

Rabin said.

Shikaki said all military attacks were being planned and carried out in Israel or Israeli-administered territory. "Those who are carrying out the military attacks are inside 'Palestine' and not in Damascus or any other Arab capital."

"The continuation of our presence in Damascus or our departure will not affect the military attacks of our fighters inside 'Palestine,'" he argued.

"Israeli rulers who are asking for our expulsion want to pressure Syria and to blackmail her... they want to export their crisis abroad rather than looking on how to put an end to it by ending their 'occupation' and their repression of our people."

He praised Syria for its "moral and political support to the Arab resistance against Israeli 'occupation'" and said he believed Syria had no reason to change its stance.

"I know that the Syrians are against terrorism, but operations inside 'Palestine' are resistance actions and not terrorism. The real terrorism is practiced by the Israeli forces against the innocent civilians," he said.

Guard killed in Gaza terrorist ambush

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

AN Israeli security guard was killed and another was moderately wounded when gunmen opened fire on their car as it escorted a gasoline truck to a Gaza Strip filling station yesterday.

The dead man was identified as Yevgeny Gromov, 32, of Ashkelon. The wounded man, Yehonatan Ben-Shaul, 27, also of Ashkelon, was flown to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba by helicopter.

A Palestinian Preventive Security Service car escorted the truck from the front, and the Israeli guards were behind it, when gunmen opened fire from a passing car on the Gaza bypass road between Jabalya and Gaza City near Nahal Oz. Some 30 to 40 bullets hit the car.

"I heard the sound of shooting," truck driver David Ballas told Israel Radio. "I turned around and saw a shoot-out. The guy next to me got out of the vehicle and shot at the terrorists, but they escaped into the orchard."

When the Palestinian security agents saw the Israeli car had been hit, they went to help. They drove off together to Nahal Oz, where they were met by the joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols, which patrol the east-west axis road. About 500 Palestinian policemen combed citrus groves in the area and detained nine suspects, witnesses said.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur told Israel Radio that attacks like this "endanger coexistence and the ability of the residents of the Gaza Strip to lead normal lives... If we don't supply them with gasoline, where will they get it? If we don't supply flour, water, electricity - where will they get it? So [PLO Chairman Yasser] Arafat can hardly ignore this one."

In a speech later at a Gaza City school, Arafat accused the unidentified attackers of subverting the Palestinian economy. "Which genius is demanding that Gaza remain closed, and its residents prevented from acquiring basic goods? Who can defend such plots against Palestinian children, hospitals, and factories?"

Two groups took responsibility for the attack. Voices over loud-

speakers from Gaza mosques announced that Hamas was responsible, and a caller identifying himself as from the "Red Star" telephoned the Agence-France Presse. The Red Star is the armed wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Nayef Hawameh in Damascus.

Hamas has said it would not attack Israelis inside the territory of the Palestinian Authority. Sheikh Imad Falouji, one of its leaders, told The Jerusalem Post that this policy is unchanged. "We do not know that Hamas was responsible," he said.

Islamic Jihad is also under suspicion. It has no policy of discriminating between targets inside and outside the Palestinian Authority. Arafat has accused Fathi Shikaki, the Islamic Jihad leader in Damascus, of threatening to assassinate him, and a few of its leading officials are under arrest. Two were rearrested yesterday morning.

Hawameh's relations with Arafat are also not good. He accused Arafat of denying him access to \$5 million in DFPL money held by the Palestine National Fund.

Israeli police and the IDF met with the Palestinian Police to coordinate the search for the attackers and to discuss security.

A senior army source said the IDF will recommend that Israeli civilians be barred from entering the Gaza Strip on business.

"The risks are too high," the source said. "Every time this happens the entire IDF is put on alert. We will recommend that Israelis not living in the Gaza Strip be prohibited from entering."

Herb Keiron adds: The IDF "must take matters back into its own hands and do whatever is necessary to ensure security in the region." Gaza Coast Regional Council head Zvi Hendel said.

According to Hendel, the IDF knows that terrorists are preparing car bombs in Gaza and Khan Yunis, but is restricted by the peace accords from going in after the terrorists.

In a related incident, thieves infiltrated the settlement of Morag and emptied out two warehouses.

Plant delays reporting spill of cyanide into Ashkelon's sewers

Jerusalem Post Staff

SOME 300 liters of a solution containing a high concentration of cyanide were poured into the Ashkelon sewer system yesterday, as a result of a mishap at the Ashor-Ashkelon plant.

While the incident occurred at about 11 a.m., it was only reported to the regional office of the Environment Ministry at 5:30 p.m.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid took the delay most seriously, saying that if he had the authority, he would order the plant closed immediately.

Only prompt reports of such accidents, Sarid said, enable emergency forces to take the proper steps necessary for the public's protection.

Sarid informed the manager of the plant that timing of his report of the accident would be examined so that incidents like this could not recur.

Oren Edri's sentence appealed

ALON PINKAS

THE Judge Advocate-General yesterday appealed last week's decision by a military court to acquit Lt. Oren Edri on three counts. Assistant chief military prosecutor Lt.-Col. Avi Levy asked the military court of appeals to overturn last week's verdict and convict Edri of conduct unbecoming an officer, conducting military training for civilians and divulging classified military information to civilians.

Levy asked that Edri be demoted to private and sentenced to a jail term longer than the seven months to which he was sentenced for illegal removal of

explosives from an IDF base. Edri had already spent five months in jail pending the trial, and was released immediately following the acquittal, since the five months constituted two-thirds of that sentence.

The prosecution claims that the special Central District court was wrong in acquitting Edri of training Elyashiv Keller in the use of explosives. The court acknowledged that an explosive brick was taken by Edri out of a depot, but determined that the offense was "technical" in nature, not criminal.

Closure tops Palestinians' list of grievances

JON IMMANUEL

TALAL Jarrar, of Jenin, looked toward the Israeli countryside which unfolded between two buildings, and said, "You can almost touch it."

Almost, but not quite. While the soft green hills across the Green Line are only 5 km. away, the residents of Jenin have been under partial or complete closure since October.

Closure, not settlements will be the main item on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's agenda when he meets Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday. But Arafat will be severely restricted by the deadly Hamas attack near Nahal Oz

yesterday morning. On any list of what bugs Palestinians in the street this week, closure comes before settlements. Settlements strike at land, the core political issue. But closure strikes deeper than politics, at everyman's stomach, his self-esteem as breadwinner. And in the end, popular sentiment leads the leaders.

Palestinians call it not only "collective punishment," but also calculated humiliation, because the suicide killers never have work permits, and those willing to take a risk can get across the Green Line anyway. Feelings of humiliation increase resentment. Politically, closures are seen as proof Israel is not ready to withdraw its troops.

There have been far worse closures than today's. During the six grim weeks of the Gulf War in 1991, people were reduced to growing vegetables in

window boxes as they watched their fields wither during a closure and curfew. But then they thought the closure defied Israel's future borders.

Jarrar explained the rationale. "Before people thought the suffering of the intifada would give them a state. Now they see the suffering of the peace process and think the opposite, that Oslo will not give them a state."

Jarrar is no angry young militant. He owns an automobile parts store, is treasurer of the Jenin chamber of commerce, and likes to attend occasional local meetings of Israelis and Palestinians who chat about peace.

Feeling about the closure was so strong that at a meeting in Jenin's chamber of commerce last Saturday, Palestinians start-

ed saying they don't care if Rabin loses the next election. They might make a better deal with the Likud.

Dag Tuastad, Middle East coordinator of FAFO, the Norwegian social science institute which helped bring Israel and the PLO together, said he has been surprised by Palestinian reaction to the closure, their dependence on Israeli jobs.

Based on FAFO's experience in other countries, "We expected that closures would make them develop their own informal employment structures. It did not happen, it seems, because they always expect the closure to be lifted."

FAFO estimated unemployment in Gaza at 60% for men 22-45. But, Tuastad said, "Gazans can survive with this unemployment rate if one person per family works." This means, however, that unemployment

over a certain figure can be dangerous, leaving families with no breadwinner at all.

Tuastad concluded that the economic effects of the closure have not been drastic yet. The problem is "expectations are much greater now."

Samir Sheihat, president of the World Council of Palestinian students, said in Jenin, which is economically far better off than Gaza, there is a direct connection between the closure and the high proportion of people who support suicide attacks against Israelis.

Jenin residents, more than 10,000 of whom used to work in towns like Afula and Hadera, "are frustrated after the closure," he said.

There is little Hamas or Islamic Jihad influence, but "Fatah members support what happened at Beit Lid. I feel that," said Sheihat.





US Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown (right) and Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish don protective headgear and goggles yesterday, as they tour the Intel plant in Jerusalem.

Brown to raise terror issue with Arafat

US COMMERCE Secretary Ronald Brown will raise the issue of terrorism when he meets with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat today.

Terrorism "is the biggest impediment to the peace process," Brown told a Jerusalem news conference yesterday.

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish expanded on that, saying terrorism is a threat to the PA, not only to Israel.

Speaking of the plight of the Palestinians due to the closure, Harish said the cabinet is looking to develop Gaza's economy and create jobs there, both to reduce Israel's security problems and increase the Palestinians' economic independence.

Brown, whose delegation includes US businessmen, said he expected that his trip through Israel, the territories, Taba, Akaba, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, will result in business deals. He said that the peace process is the best way the US can encourage investment in the territories in view of the business risks.

JOSE ROSENFELD

Supporting Brown's contention, Richard Morningstar, senior vice president of Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a US government company which provides risk insurance to investors, said: "We are a risk mitigator, not risk eliminators."

Brown also said that President Bill Clinton recently decided to again reject Israel's request for two supercomputers. While he declined to comment on the decision, the US has refused selling the supercomputers out of fear they would be used for military purposes.

Harish warned that the US policy could backfire and hurt US companies, "because Israel will solve its technological needs one way or another."

Brown defended the decision to sell Saudi Arabia remote imaging technology for its satellite program, which has raised security concerns here. "We're going to make sure that nothing causes a

security threat to Israel," he said.

He downplayed the US trade sanctions on China, saying it is "a gross overstatement to call the relationship between China and the US one of a trade war."

"We have not given up on discussions," he added, but warned that China's failure to play by the rules of international trade will make it difficult for it to join the World Trade Organization.

According to Brown, the highlight of his trade mission will be "the historic first meeting of Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian, Palestinian, and American trade leaders in Taba" today and tomorrow.

Jon Immanuel adds:

Brown met with PA Economic Minister Ahmed Qreia (Abu Ala) yesterday afternoon to discuss preferential trade treatment of Palestinian imports and exports. They met at a Ramallah restaurant, with Abu Ala's staff and members of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction. US and Palestinian businessmen met at other tables to discuss private business ventures.

Rabin will discuss Nahal Oz attack in Thursday meeting with Arafat

LIAT COLLINS

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he would raise yesterday's terror attack with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat when the two meet at the Erez checkpoint on Thursday.

Rabin reiterated that the Palestinian Authority is not doing enough to prevent terror attacks. He was speaking following the Labor faction meeting, which discussed MK Avigdor Kahalani and Yoram Lass's two bills on a public referendum on the Golan Heights and plebiscites in general.

Rabin said the terror problem was more urgent than the question of withdrawal from the Golan Heights and said he did not know when negotiations with Syria would be resumed.

Earlier in the afternoon, Labor MKs Kahalani, Lass, Emanuel Zissman and Ya'acov Sheffy — leading members of the Third Way movement — met to discuss the bills for a plebiscite, along with Third Way chairman Yehuda Harel. The MKs stressed that the movement is apolitical and not a rival party and said they would not act to bring down the government down.

Kahalani sounded most determined among his colleagues to stick with the bill despite Rabin's opposition. Faction Chairman Ra'anan Cohen categorically stated, however, that he intends to implement the faction rules

which state that no private member's bill can be discussed in the plenum without the faction's prior approval.

"We believe in the party platform. We cannot return the Golan Heights today without returning to the people for a vote," Kahalani said. "Anyone who accuses us of trying to destroy the government should examine himself first. Who is to say it is not the fact that Yit'ud joined the government or the Capital Gains Tax that is hurting the government? We're only stating the party platform and bringing people back to the party," he said.

Lass told the faction the plebiscite precedent on such issues had

been used around the world, and cited the 1978 referendum on Scottish separation from Britain. He said the bills would prepare the legislative and legal aspects of conducting referendums in general and could be applied to issues other than the Golan, like the Jewish presence in Hebron and Gush Katif.

Rabin was infuriated by this claim and reportedly told Lass that although he had agreed to a referendum on the Golan Heights, he would not accept one on every subject. He accused the MKs of "pulling a stunt" by insisting on the vote on the Golan Heights bill now. Rabin quoted Syrian President Hafez Assad as saying he prefers the present situation to what Israel is offering.

Rajoub: Man punished for threat to border policeman

ALON PINKAS and JON IMMANUEL

THE head of the Palestinian preventive security apparatus in Jericho, Jibell Rajoub, yesterday said that the Palestinian security man who threatened an Israeli border policeman with a gun Saturday was punished by the Palestinian Authority following an Israeli complaint.

The army said last night that it is verifying through the Jericho area Israeli-Palestinian district coordination office if the security man was indeed punished.

The incident occurred Saturday afternoon when Rajoub and several of his bodyguards arrived at the office for talks. The body-

guards were denied entry and were told to wait near the roadblock at the entrance to the compound.

The bodyguards then vehemently protested the decision, and when an Israeli border police officer arrived with a Palestinian policeman, one of them pulled a pistol and waved it at the Israeli officer's chest.

The border police officer retreated in an attempt to prevent further escalation, while the Palestinian policemen disarmed the

bodyguard.

Following the incident the IDF closed the main road through Jericho, leading to Rajoub's compound, claiming that Israel violated the Cairo agreements by extending the closure it imposed on the territories to Jericho itself.

In response, the army said Sunday that the road would remain blocked until the incident was resolved.

Yesterday in Jericho, Rajoub said that as far as he is concerned, the incident was resolved, since

the bodyguard was punished.

Rajoub told *The Jerusalem Post* that the behavior of soldiers at the checkpoint was degrading and caused a lot of tension.

He said that two days ago "the soldiers would not let my driver bring my wife to Jericho, just because it was my car. I myself have to wait two hours at the checkpoint daily."

He noted that while his police have to wait at the checkpoints, there are collaborators whom he termed "thieves and rapists" with special identity cards which say "Allow to pass, working for the GSS," who go straight through.

Shaath: Arafat's speaking ability delays denunciation of terror

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

ANYONE wondering why PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat hasn't forcefully denounced terrorist attacks against Israel should have considered this possibility: stage fright.

That notion was offered here Sunday evening by Arafat's chief advisor, the Palestinian Authority's Planning Minister Nabil Shaath.

In a satellite appearance before the annual gathering of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NICRAC), Shaath was asked whether Arafat might deliver a major anti-terrorism speech to the Palestinian people.

Speaking from Cairo, Shaath said that Arafat "is really a very important supporter of all of us in this quest."

He added that Arafat "really

recognizes he is not a very good public speaker, particularly in English. He isn't shy away from doing these appearances, [but] I think he recognizes his forte in many other endeavors than in this particular one."

"Therefore, he has really been prevailing upon me and others who have more ability to do that explanation, to represent him. But I know in his heart and mind, he is absolutely set in this direction. And when he feels he can do it in a natural way, in a not-pot-on way, in a way that really will express his real feelings of concern, that I know he does [have], I'm sure that he will do it."

In his address to the plenum, Shaath conceded Palestinian shortcomings in meeting Israeli

security demands.

"I think it is very important for us to do much, as much as we can on security... To us there is an identity of interests here. Protecting the security of Israelis is paramount because it is the side of the bargain they expect most. We do need security as well and are being deprived of it. But our quest for freedom and independence is so important for dignity that it is important we protect Israeli security as much as ours in order to get the freedom and independence we have sought."

"We need to increase our co-operation and coordination with the Israeli side in all matters that will stop infiltration and will increase the real security," he stated.

Shaath drew some groans from the audience when he compared the still-to-be-amended PLO charter to the lengthy American process of amending the Constitution and to the Knesset debate over ratifying the Oslo Accord.

"We have not been able to do so, so far. But in no way does this mean a lack of resolve in doing it, or a lack of commitment in the principle of changing it."

"These things are not easy, they take time, and I think that would have been helped very much if [Palestinian] elections were held on the 13th of July, as was promised, because they would have provided a constituency elected from inside that would have increased the number of supporters of this amendment in the PNC."

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved sister and friend

LILI WEISS

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, February 7, 1995 (7 Adar 15755), at 11:30 a.m. at the Hayarkon Cemetery (Trans-Samaria Highway). A bus will leave at 10:30 a.m. from the home of the deceased, 96 Rehov Hayarkon, Tel Aviv.

Mourning by:
Erna, Kalman and family
Trudi Marks and family
Ilse Yones and family

THE ALLALOUF FAMILY
deeply mourns the devastating loss
of our beloved

SOLON ALLALOUF

(Athens)

and extend our sorrowful condolences to Francine, Daisy and Yossi in their grievous hour of bereavement.

Jacky and Anne Allalouf
Moshe and Sarah Allalouf
Jacky and Rina Allalouf and family (N.Y.)
Miriam Allalouf
Margot Allalouf and family (Brazil)
Betty (Tovah) and Jimmy Frances
Moshe and Varda Frances
Solly Allalouf and family
Cilly Shohet and family (U.S.A.)
Naty and Limor Allalouf
Mati and Dani Allalouf
Yael and Yoram Allalouf (London)

Gingrich, Netanyahu discuss troops on Golan

ISRAEL'S deteriorating security situation will have repercussions on Congress's readiness to authorize US troops on the Golan Heights, House Speaker Newt Gingrich told Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday.

Following their meeting, Netanyahu told Israeli reporters that Gingrich said that willingness to do so had previously been greater

than it is now.

However, Gingrich "did not say whether he is for or against" stationing US troops on the Golan, and "I didn't ask him to say so," Netanyahu reported.

Netanyahu said he has found Congress more open to what the Likud has to say about the Oslo accords than during his previous visit.

Hillel Kuttler

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

and the Friends of the
Federal Republic of Germany

mourn the passing of

Dr. ERNST PIEPER

(Hannover / Braunschweig)

a great friend and supporter
of Tel Aviv University

David and Golda Lander Teachers College

המכללה לחינוך ע"ש דוד וגולדה לנדר

YESHIVAT SHA'ALVIM

Heartfelt condolences to our founder and patron

Dr. BERNARD LANDER

President, Touro College

upon the passing of his beloved wife

SARAH LANDER

המקום ירחם בתוך שאר אנשי ציון וישראלים

Maïlen Gallinsky, Dean

Our courageous, cherished granddaughter

NAOMI NECHAMA

daughter of David and Cynthia

sister of Yossef and Ariela of Rehovot

has gone to her eternal reward.

Heartfelt gratitude to the many friends and doctors for exemplary devotion.

Signed: Herman and Ruth K. Cohen and Family

Shiva in Engelwood, N.J.

Israel-Jordan committee meets

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE committee overseeing implementation of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty met yesterday in Dir Ala, Jordan, and received a report on progress in the negotiations leading to the signing of trade, transportation, and military liaison agreements.

An agreement on tourism was finalized, and the agreement determining the liaison and coordination arrangements between the IDF and the Jordanian Army was initiated.

The joint committee dealing with the issue of an air corridor between Israel and Jordan also met. Some progress was made, and the sides are making a concerted effort to achieve overall agreement soon.

The peace treaty states that within three months of the exchange of the ratified documents between the heads of state, agreements on tourism and the liaison and coordination mechanism between the two countries' armies would be signed. In addition, the IDF would deploy along the border determined by the peace treaty, and the statutory processes enshrining the peace treaty in the internal legal systems of the two countries would be completed.

Last week, the Knesset passed the Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty Law. A similar bill is pending in Jordan. In addition to the two areas where a special regime is in force, the new border between Israel and Jordan includes recognition of Israel's sovereignty over those areas where land is cultivated by Israeli communities in the Azava.

On Thursday, three months after the peace treaty documents of ratification were exchanged, meetings of the supervision committee and the joint border committee will be held in the Zofar and Naharayim areas.

Jordanian interrogated for anti-Israel campaign

AMMAN (AP) — A prominent left-wing activist said yesterday he was interrogated by police over the activities of a committee campaigning against normalization of Jordanian-Israeli relations.

It was the first known questioning of Jordanians who oppose the peace treaty. The opposition is grouped under a Committee to Fight Normalization of Relations with Israel.

Bahjat Abu Gharbiyeh, who

heads the committee, said during the three-hour interrogation last Thursday, he was accused of forming an illegal society.

Abu Gharbiyeh rejected the accusation.

"Our committee is legal, and it aims at wrecking the October 26 treaty and fighting any move to normalize relations with the Zionist state," he said.

Abu Gharbiyeh, in his mid-70s, espouses left-leaning Arab nationalist thinking.

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

LITTLE HEARTS BREAK EASY

Imagine a child in a poor family, or in a home for orphans or the disabled. There's always a reason, it seems, for other kids to get presents: holidays, birthdays, achievements, or just for being good.

But no gifts are there for this child. There may be no tears on the outside, but inside, another little heart breaks in silence.

The Jerusalem Post Toy

Fund has been healing broken hearts for 46 years, not just on Hanukkah, but all year round. The Fund distributes toys, clothing, shoes, school supplies, medical care and equipment, and more, to needy children throughout Israel.

Your contribution helps us to continue.

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Dinitz: The rules didn't apply to me

EVELYN GORDON

technicalities."

With regard to his agency American Express card, Dinitz said he "didn't think it was my job to give a personal report."

"I thought my job was to make sure the information got to the treasury, so it could do the accounting," he added. But since American Express sent bills to the agency, complete with vouchers and an itemized list of expenses, "I thought this gave the treasury the necessary material" — and if not, he could always be asked.

"But I don't know if there ever were any requests for clarification to my office, because if so,

they never came to me," he said.

Dinitz reiterated that he thought the treasury was billing him for all expenses he did not explicitly claim as job-related. It was especially hard to believe the treasury would treat all his expenses as job-related, since all the other executives with agency credit cards used them for personal expenses as well, he said.

As for the Sims card, he continued, it was clearly personal, since it was in his name, rather than the agency's. He merely asked the New York office as a favor to receive the bills and pay them, and then have the money debited from his account in Jerusalem, he said.

"But what arrangements did you make to ensure that this would really happen?" asked Judge Shalom Brenner. "What kind of follow-up did you do?"

"I was sure ... [the bills] were being sent on to Israel," Dinitz replied. "That's what I asked [the financial director of the New York office] to do."

Brenner also questioned Dinitz about what he had done to fix the problem once he was told by an employee, in 1991, that his personal expenses were not being charged to him. Dinitz responded that he told his secretary to take care of it, and, since he heard nothing more, assumed the matter had been settled.

"I was never asked a single

question," he said. "Not about American Express, and not about Sims."

Wagman also tried to show that in a few instances, Dinitz had talked to people about the issue of his personal expenditures. However, Brenner said, this seemed to weaken Dinitz's claim that finances were not his responsibility. If he really felt financial reporting was not his concern, Brenner asked, why did he sometimes act as if it were?

Finally, Dinitz denied that agency finance director Zvi Barak had told him he must submit reports if he wanted to put personal expenses on the agency card.

Dinitz's testimony will continue tomorrow.

Weizman calls for war on drugs

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday called on the media and the public to more actively fight drug abuse.

"Instead of seeing people laughing all the way to the bank," the president said, in reference to a TV ad for Lotto, "it would be better to show those crying all the way to their drugs." Constant exposure to the hazards of drugs would eventually deter potential users, he said.

Weizman was speaking at Beit Hanassi yesterday during a symposium on the struggle against drug abuse, held under his auspices and in conjunction with the War on Drugs Authority. Weizman is known for his strong stance against drugs, and his refusal to pardon drug pushers.

There are signs that the spread of drugs among schoolchildren is being contained, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein told the participants. He said that his ministry had brought an intensive anti-drug campaign to some 250,000 youngsters in the schools, mostly at the junior-high level.

However, Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said that the drug scourge had affected 4.5% of Israel's high school pupils. Some 200,000 Israelis use drugs and there are 30,000 hard drug addicts today, he said. "Every seven minutes a car is broken into. In most cases, the tape decks are stolen to be sold for money for drugs," he said.

Minister Ora Namir announced that the National Insurance Institute is ready to fund another village along the lines of the successful Malshima drug-rehabilitation village. She said a suitable site should be found in an isolated area.

Deputy Health Minister Nissim Masalha noted that 33% of addicts are Arabs — almost double their number in the population. The hardest hit area in the country was the Triangle town of Taibe, he said.

The IDF charged 295 soldiers with suspected drug use in 1993, a senior officer revealed, and 115 were discharged after serving prison sentences.

Survey shows most Israelis don't want High Court curtailed

HAIM SHAPIRO

DESPITE recent criticism of the High Court of Justice, most Israelis do not believe that the authority of the court should be curtailed.

This was revealed in a Dahaf survey, conducted for the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Committee, which found that 65 percent of those questioned said that the court's authority should not be limited, while 30 percent believed that it should be.

Among those who described themselves as religious, 50 percent opposed limiting the court, while 40 percent were in favor of doing so. Among those who considered themselves traditional, 56 percent were against curtailing the court and 40 percent in favor.

A total of 65 percent of those questioned favored the right of the court to deal with issues relating to the religious status quo. When the question related to the authority of the court to review legislation by the Knesset, 74 percent were in favor.

RULES that apply to the rest of the Jewish Agency's management were never meant to apply to the chairman, former agency chairman Simcha Dinitz said yesterday.

Dinitz was testifying for the second day in Jerusalem District Court, where he stands accused of fraud and breach of trust for allegedly charging \$22,000 worth of personal expenses to the agency.

Guided by questions from defense attorney Uri Wagman, Dinitz said there are several rules of conduct for top management from which the chairman is exempt, such as the limit on how many days a year could be spent abroad and the limit on how often one's spouse could go along on

trips. The chairman's role, Dinitz said, requires much more time abroad than the limit permitted, while his American-born wife was considered an asset to his work and was often requested by overseas groups.

The rules on financial reporting, he added, are a "classic example" of regulations from which the chairman is exempt.

"It never entered my head that these instructions applied to the chairman," he said, reiterating that the magnitude of the chairman's job made it impossible for him to spend time filing reports. "It was never intended that they apply to the chairman ... [I] tried to act in the spirit of the instructions, not according to the

Jerusalem compensates Arab merchants for damage by protesters

BILL HUTMAN

IN an unprecedented move yesterday, the Jerusalem municipality compensated Arab merchants whose stores were damaged by Jewish protesters during last summer's massive demonstration against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The city gave the three merchants a total of NIS 45,000 from its own coffers. Jewish rioters caused minor damage to other shops but their owners did not respond to the city's offer to help.

"It was an unfortunate event which took place, even if we were not responsible for the wild people who participated in the demonstration," Mayor Ehud Olmert said at a brief City Hall ceremony.

Olmert warned similar violence was possible again in light of tensions between Israel and the Palestinians over Jerusalem. "All sorts of confrontations between the people are possible," Olmert said.

He added, however, that the compensating Arab merchants for damages "should not be seen as a precedent." The city had difficulty locating the funding for yesterday's payment in its tight budget, Olmert said.

The mayor presented separate checks to Mari Bahwan, owner of the Armenian pottery shop near the American Consulate in eastern Jerusalem, and two bakery shop owners just outside Damascus Gate, Mohammed Hamad and Khutan Ajluni.

Olmert, meanwhile, told the Post after the meeting that Palestinian shopkeepers should take their complaints about the bad effects of the closure on business to the government and not City Hall.

The government imposed the closure and has the responsibility to decide whether Palestinian merchants adversely affected should be compensated, Olmert said.

Palestinian merchants in Jerusalem have complained that the closure, coming at the start of Ramadan, has devastated business, because the thousands of Palestinians from the territories who normally buy at their stores can't enter the city.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hotel slated for Hadassah, Ein Kerem

A hotel for families of patients is to be built at Hadassah University Hospital, Ein Kerem, as part of renovations and new construction approved by the Jerusalem planning committee yesterday. The hotel is to be built in an existing hospital building. A new student center is also slated for construction within the present compound. Three new buildings about 15,000 sq.m. each are also included in the plan, to house a sports complex, education center, and laboratories.

Israel, Jordan inaugurate mail delivery

Direct postal ties between Israel and Jordan were inaugurated yesterday with a personal letter from Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni to King Hussein. "These ties are not only a symbol of reconciliations among neighbors, but also a work tool that we may all use to develop and deepen ties between our countries," she wrote. Charges for a regular letter to Jordan weighing up to 20 grams are NIS 1.40, and a package up to 500 grams NIS 33.

Bill submitted on constitutional law

Only the Supreme Court would have the right to declare laws unconstitutional, according to a bill submitted yesterday by Knesset Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) and former justice minister Dan Meridor (Likud). Currently, any court can declare a law unconstitutional only by a panel of at least nine justices.

Inquiry into collapse of youth

Deputy Education and Sports Minister Micha Goldman has set up a committee of inquiry to investigate the collapse of a 17-year-old Bat Yam schoolboy during a soccer match on Sunday. Liron Lizon was reported in critical condition last night in the intensive care ward of Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer.

Bezek to offer 'identifying call' service

Bezek subscribers who want to know who's calling before they pick up the receiver may satisfy their curiosity with a new service to be introduced in parts of the country a week from today. Called *shva mezuha* ("identifying call"), it works using a special digital display that, in the more expensive models, contains memory to store numbers of callers who dialed while you were away.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the seven of spades, jack of hearts, king of diamonds, and ten of clubs.



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin comes out to greet members of Hano'ar Ha'oved V'halomed, who demonstrated yesterday outside his Jerusalem residence in support of the peace process.

Bnei Brak abuzz over hassidic royal wedding

HERB KEINON

SOME 20,000 people are expected at Kiryat Vishnitz in Bnei Brak tonight to watch the grandchildren of two leading hassidic rebbe's become husband and wife.

Benzion Meisles, 18, the grandson of 90-year-old Bobover Rebbe Shlomo Halberstam, will marry Haiya Erenster, granddaughter of Vishnitzer Rebbe Moshe Yehoshua Hager. After the *hupa* in Bnei Brak, the celebration will move to the Tel Aviv fairgrounds where dinner for some 10,000 will be served. The wedding is scheduled to last until 4 tomorrow morning.

This is the largest hassidic wedding in the country since the son of the Belzer rebbe, also grand-

son of the Vishnitzer rebbe, married in Jerusalem in the summer of 1993. Some 30,000 people attended that wedding.

According to Bobov spokesman Haim Davidovitch, about 5,000 Bobov hassidim are flying into the country from the US and Europe for the occasion.

Meisles is the first grandchild of the Bobover Rebbe to marry in Israel. The Bobover Rebbe lives in Brooklyn, and flew in for the occasion. The Vishnitzer Rebbe is one of the two heads of Agudat Yisrael's Council of Sages.

According to Davidovitch, the bride and groom have not seen each other for about nine months. Before that they met three times.

Probe of bombing incidents in two Galilee Arab villages

DAVID RUDGE

POLICE are investigating two separate bombing incidents in Arab villages in the Galilee early yesterday morning.

In one of the incidents, an IDF fragmentation grenade was thrown at a house in Rama village, near Karmiel, while the owner and his family were asleep inside.

Police said the house was badly damaged but nobody was hurt in the attack.

Apparently the attack was criminally motivated.

Police sources said there was no connection between the grenade attack and recent violent disputes between Christian and Druse residents of Rama.

They noted that the simmering

feud had been defused following intensive negotiations and meetings of a "sulha" committee composed of representatives from both sides.

In the other incident yesterday morning, a bomb exploded under the car of a resident of Abu Snaa village, near Acre, while it was parked outside his home.

Nobody was hurt in the bomb attack, although the vehicle was badly damaged and windows of neighboring houses were shattered by the blast. The car owner runs a debt-collecting business.

Police said they were investigating all aspects of the case, although there appeared little doubt that the bomb attack was also criminally motivated.

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Sino-US ties pushed to the brink once again

WITH Sino-US trade-war rhetoric at fever pitch, the question is whether the dizzy roller-coaster ride of relations will once again cling to the rails and recover or whether the players this time push themselves over the edge.

Most analysts believe the current dispute – over China's protection of copyrights, patents and other forms of intellectual property – will follow the same course as a score of others, with an agreement coming moments before a multibillion dollar trade war breaks out.

But when the world's most populous country and the world's biggest economy go toe-to-toe over trade, there is always the chance for a disastrous miscalculation that sends brinkmanship over the brink.

"It is typical of US-China bilateral negotiations that they go to the 11th hour," said Thomas Gorman, a long-time China hand who is chairman of the American

Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. "There are those who are critical of this and those who think it is the only way to get results."

The endlessly repeated pattern the two sides appear to be locked into "is a result of a chemistry of sorts", he said yesterday in a telephone interview.

"They know each other's flashpoints and boiling points," he said. "Both sides are playing to a very emotive domestic audience."

The United States has to appear to be very tough on China both to make a point to Beijing and to satisfy politicians at home.

Chinese negotiators also cannot be seen to cave in too easily to outside pressure.

Beijing has over the years honed brinkmanship to a fine art. "They are going to push it to the very end to see where our bottom line really is," said

DAVID SCHLESINGER
HONG KONG

Kenneth Lieberthal, professor of political science at the University of Michigan. "That is a legitimate if nerve-racking negotiating tactic."

China and the United States announced on Saturday that-for-tat trade punishments if the trade dispute was not solved by February 26.

The US sanctions on China, at US\$1.08 billion, are the largest in its history.

The US side's "hardball" tactics in the copyright dispute are due in part to a desire to make up for foreign policy missteps in the past, including those with China, said Robert Ross, a research associate at Harvard University's Fairbank Centre for East Asian Research who is now a Fulbright professor in Beijing.

"The problem this time is that Chinese leverage has improved over the years and the American side has made its negotiating posture public," he said by telephone.

By repeatedly saying Washington believes China will settle before sanctions are actually imposed, "this gives China an interest in not proving the United States right", he said.

Indications yesterday were, however, that China would return to the negotiating table, with US sources in Beijing saying the talks could begin again as early as next week.

One indication that both sides are involved in a dangerous game of shadow boxing, not wanting to deal the other a knockout blow, is that neither has aimed its sanctions with the intent to do the most damage.

The United States' threatened sanctions do not target China's lucrative tex-

tile trade, for example.

And China, which is one of the world's biggest customers for Boeing aircraft, did not put pressure on America's troubled aerospace industry.

If the two sides again reach a last-minute settlement, it would fit exactly the pattern of past disputes.

In January 1994 China and the United States pulled back from the brink of a trade war by agreeing to a new textile pact just before US sanctions were due to go into effect.

And, in a situation that gives the current row over intellectual property rights an eerie sense of déjà vu, Beijing and Washington in 1992 agreed on a "memorandum of understanding" on the protection of copyrights and patents hours before a "final" deadline which, if broken, would have brought about tit-for-tat sanctions just like the ones currently looming. (Reuters)

Denise Brown retakes witness stand

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Jurors in the O.J. Simpson trial had the entire weekend to digest the tearful, gripping testimony of Denise Brown, who says the football hero slashed her sister to death.

Brown returned to the witness stand yesterday, helping prosecutors lay out a case that Simpson was a violent wife abuser, not the benevolent family man described by defense attorneys.

Such emotional testimony can make a powerful impression on jurors. But don't count the defense out yet, legal experts say. "A trial is a series of skirmishes and we've only seen half of the first skirmish on the issue of domestic abuse," said law professor Peter Arenella of the University of California at Los Angeles.

Denise Brown's breakdown Friday as she talked of Simpson throwing her sister against a wall was all the prosecution could ask for as it tries to portray the ex-football hero as a wife-beater whose rage drove him to kill.

But Simpson's lawyers said the timing of Brown's appearance was calculated for dramatic effect. Simpson has pleaded innocent to the murders of Nicole and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Nearly a dozen witnesses were called last week to testify about Simpson's troubled relationship with Nicole Brown Simpson. But her sister's time on the stand was the most dramatic.

She testified that Simpson once grabbed Nicole's crotch in a crowded bar and, on another occasion, threw her against a wall and out of his house.

After the June 12 murders of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman, Brown initially said she didn't believe her sister was battered. By November she had changed her views and declared that Simpson had killed her.

Defense lawyers will pounce on her contradictions, but Arenella said they must be careful because jurors will be sympathetic to her.

'House of Horrors' wife in court

DURSLEY, England (Reuters) – Housewife Rosemary West, accused of being one of Britain's bloodiest murderers, appeared in court yesterday in a bid to ensure she never goes on trial for the "House of Horrors" killings.

The pale, chubby 41-year-old denies murdering 10 women and girls on unknown dates since 1971, among them her own teenage daughter Heather and a Swiss tourist. She is separately charged with raping her step-daughter with another man.

In a preliminary hearing, her lawyers opted for old-style committal proceedings, where witnesses can be tested by cross-examination, in the hope of destroying the prosecution case before it even reaches a full trial.

West, a dark-haired, mild-looking woman, watched as defense counsel Sasha Wass asked the magistrate to throw out the whole case before it went any further.

"A fair trial of this defendant is no longer possible," she said.

Wass said the reasons for this were the lapse of time, absence of certainty about the evidence and adverse publicity about a case whose tabloid exclusives, based on accounts by the Wests' children or relatives, have made grim reading.

Some legal experts say the apparent prison suicide of her builder husband Fred, who was jointly charged with the 10 deaths and also with killing his first wife and a nanny in the 1960s, has dealt a crippling blow to the case against Rose.

Routes across Sarajevo airport open to civilians

SARAJEVO (AP) – Hundreds of Sarajevans piled into buses and cars yesterday to cross a route pried open by weeks of negotiations, allowing them to shop or visit relatives outside their besieged capital.

"Thanks be to those who've done this for us," said 55-year-old Habiba Fazlic, before clambering aboard a packed bus for the short ride across the UN-controlled airport.

She said she was crossing to the government-held suburb of Butmir on the other side to visit relatives. One relative died several weeks ago, and she had not been able to attend the funeral, she said.

Earlier yesterday morning, a route across the airport connecting two Serb-held suburbs, Lukavica and Ilidza, opened.

UN official Enrique Aguilar estimated that about 700 people had used the two routes yesterday morning.

The agreement to open the routes is a provision of a truce brokered by former US President Jimmy Carter and signed Dec. 31 by the government and Bosnian Serbs. But it repeatedly has been held up, and officials acknowledged that the accord was tenuous.

UN officials were hopeful this time. "It is a sign of goodwill on both sides," Aguilar said.

But opening of the routes to civilians left another question unresolved: the use of the route into

Sarajevo by Bosnian charities. Serbs so far have refused to permit that, but Aguilar said another meeting on the issue would be held next week.

Last week the route into Sarajevo opened to humanitarian organizations operating under the umbrella of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Another route out of Sarajevo, to the northwest through the Serb-held suburb of Vogosca, is scheduled to be opened yesterday.

The airport route was closed in July by threat of Serb gunfire. Although those crossing from Sarajevo do not have to pass any Serb checkpoints, the route is well within range of Serb guns.

About 50 vehicles and 300-400 civilians lined yesterday morning in the government-held suburb of Dobrinja to make the crossing to Butmir and Hrasnica.

The route across the airport gives residents of besieged Sarajevo access to most parts of government-held Bosnia, and potentially neighboring Croatia and the outside world.

One soldier checking documents of the assembled Sarajevans said he didn't expect half of them to return, but most people appeared to be making short trips rather than leaving for good.

The government said Sarajevans could travel to Butmir without special permission. But to go farther, they need to collect many more official papers.

Space shuttle set for close approach to Mir

CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuters) – The crew of the US shuttle Discovery set their sights on the Russian space station Mir early yesterday as they edged toward a rendezvous that will set the stage for a historic linkup in June.

Less than three hours before the delicate dance was to begin, the Russian Space Agency granted its approval for Discovery to fly within 10 meters of Mir, before it backed away to 120 meters and flew a slow circle around the orbiting outpost.

The entire manoeuvre was to last about two hours.

The decision came after three days of negotiations between American and Russian engineers on both sides of the globe. The Russians had feared that the nine-year-old space station would be damaged by oxidiser which was leaking from a steering jet on the space shuttle.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spokeswoman Kari Fluegel said US engineers agreed to have the astronauts stop the leak by closing a manifold that supplies fuel to the broken jet.

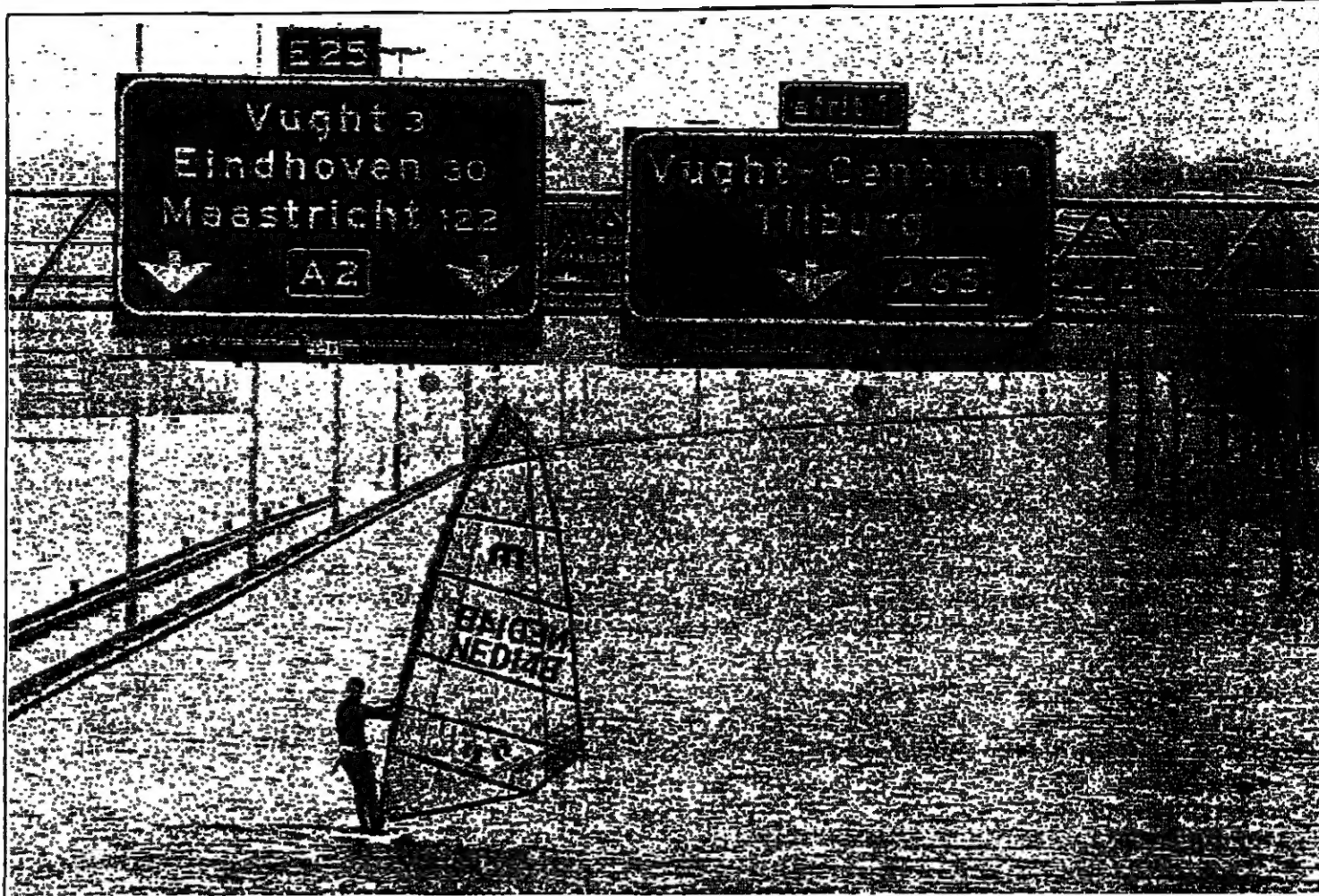
"We will take responsibility for looking after the leak," shuttle communicator Story Musgrave told the crew from Mission Control in Houston, Texas.

By the time the two craft established direct radio contact at 9:30 a.m., space officials at control centres in Houston and Kaliningrad still had not decided whether the crew – five NASA astronauts and a veteran cosmonaut – would be allowed to approach as close as they had hoped.

"In the interests of flight security, Discovery can only approach a distance of 100 meters," Viktor Blagov, Russia's deputy head of space flights, had said on Ekho Moskvy radio earlier yesterday.

The crew's excitement was evident yesterday as Vladimir Titov scanned the heavens for a glimpse of the space station that was his home for a year and a day in 1987 and 1988.

"That old eagle eyes thinks he may have seen Mir," flight commander Jim Wetherbee radioed NASA Mission Control at 6:35 a.m., a full five hours before Discovery was to begin its final approach.



A Dutch windsurfer sails along the A2 motorway after rising waters from the nearby river Waal flooded the approach routes to the highway yesterday. (Reuters)

Walesa demands Polish parliament dissolve

WARSAW (AP) – President Lech Walesa intensified his battle with the left-dominated parliament yesterday, saying it should disband if they refuse to appoint a new government. He threatened to take action if they don't.

The agitated president later told a news conference he might not run for re-election in November and might form another political party. He did not explain how those actions would solve his problems with the government.

"I appeal to you. Please step down, if you have no other ideas and no new people, but only the will to hang on," Walesa told parliamentary leaders. "Otherwise, I will take the decision that it is in the interest of Poland."

Walesa, the former Solidarity labor union leader who helped topple the communist regime in 1989, is angry at the government of Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak. Walesa feels the former communists and peasants' party representatives are dragging their feet on economic reform.

He said the government remains passive in the face of corruption and inefficiency, and works like "a faulty traffic light – with the yellow light flashing constantly."

Walesa has no power to change the government directly. He can only dissolve parliament,

forcing new elections, as he did in 1993, when the voters surprised him by choosing leftists.

Walesa, who is low in popularity polls with 10 months more of his five-year presidential term, has been described by opponents and former allies as being determined to get rid of the leftist government before he leaves office.

Last Thursday, he took the first steps that the constitution requires for dissolving parliament, by sending letters to the heads of both chambers asking their opinions.

Parliament responded Saturday with a resolution accusing Walesa of violating the constitution by trying to dissolve parliament without grounds. Members threatened to take him before the State Tribunal, which rules on the constitutionality of politicians' actions.

After Walesa's threat yesterday to dissolve parliament, Bronislaw Geremek, a leader of the center-right Freedom Union, said, "I appeal to you, Mr. President, please don't do it, because you have no right to do it, and you will be breaking the constitution."

The Freedom Union, one of parliament's largest parties, is not in the government. It objects to what it considers Walesa's increasing high-handedness in dealing with parliament.

Walesa, repeating accusations of corruption

among government and parliament members, made his appeal to the legislative leaders after a brief meeting with Pawlak at the presidential palace.

Pawlak, slammed by members of his own coalition for not consulting with them, has said he is ready to share power and responsibility with Aleksander Kwasniewski, head of the former communists, the Democratic Left Alliance.

Kwasniewski, whose party is the largest in parliament, said yesterday he is ready to head a new Cabinet.

Kwasniewski is expected to be Walesa's main rival in the November presidential elections. Walesa commented Saturday that he would not oppose formation of a government headed by Kwasniewski, who would be "more efficient" than Pawlak, but "not to the liking" of many people.

Walesa did not explain why he wouldn't object to a Kwasniewski government, since he has been so unhappy with the existing left-dominated government.

But political observers speculated that Walesa thinks Kwasniewski would lose popularity if he actually were in charge and had to take responsibility for government decisions and, in many cases, lack of decisions.

Dog rescued from rubble 18 days after Kobe quake

KOBE – Eighteen days after the earthquake that knocked down her house, Teruko Kimura heard a barking in the rubble.

"Dick!" she shouted, calling the name of her 6-month-old golden retriever.

More barking.

Four hours later, 34 firefighters and police had pulled the dog out of the ruins, looking weak but otherwise in good condition, a police official said Sunday.

Mrs. Kimura had lived with two daughters in Kobe. She and daughter Kazumi, 18, were res-

cued, but daughter Hitomi, 20, was killed by the quake.

Britain's Princess Diana began a return to full royal duties in Tokyo yesterday.

In a hospital the princess told an audience she admired the courage and optimism of people in Kobe where 5,250 people died in the earthquake three weeks ago.

Leaving behind in Britain for the moment alleged scandals in

her personal life and looking ahead to a new independent royal role, the princess rarely let a smile slip from her face from the moment she arrived at Tokyo airport.

The four day visit on behalf of the Red Cross has been tailored to show off the caring side of a princess known for a jet-set life of glamour but a private life of woe. (Agencies)



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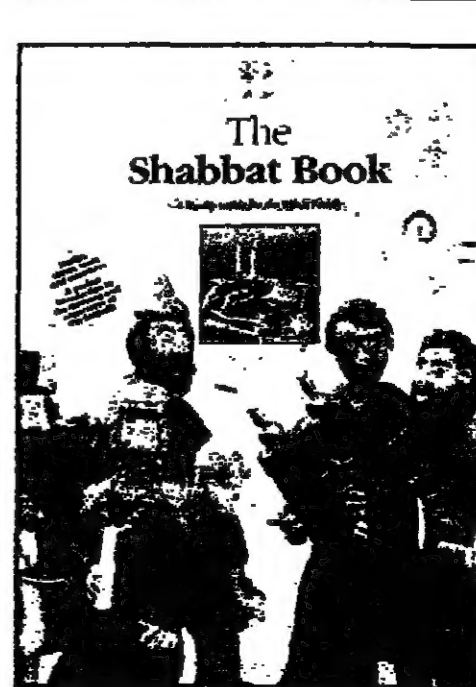
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הכנסת מן הארץ

Denise Brown retakes witness stand

Peru vows to fight on against Ecuador

LIMA (AP) - Ecuador's president criss-crossed South America yesterday to present his nation's case in its border dispute with Peru.

President Alberto Fujimori vowed to enforce Peru's claim to the remote jungle region 850 km north of Lima, where at least 31 people have died in fighting since January 26.

Fujimori said his troops were closing in on an Ecuadorian post and would "remove all the invaders" if diplomacy did not work.

Talks with the Rio Protocol group in Brazil ended without agreement on a truce Sunday. Its four members - Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States - guaranteed the 1942 accord that delineated the disputed Ecuador-Peru border.

Ecuador's president, Sixto Duran-Ballen, flew to Brasilia from Venezuela yesterday for two hours of talks with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil. Duran-Ballen then headed off for midday talks in Buenos Aires with President Carlos

Menem of Argentina. The Ecuadorian is to hold talks later in the day in Chile.

Ecuador and Peru both said there was fighting at the headwaters of the Cenepa River, where the two countries have been battling on and off for 11 days - the latest conflict in a dispute that dates from 1941.

In dispute is an unmarked 77-km stretch through jungle-covered mountains called the Cordillera del Condor, on the eastern edge of the Andes. The area is said to contain gold, uranium and oil.

Fujimori, who visited the border region Sunday, said 22 Peruvian soldiers had been killed in fighting - twice the number previously given by Peru. One Peruvian citizen also was killed after stepping on a land mine.

Ecuador says eight of its soldiers have died and two are missing and presumed dead.

Fujimori on Sunday stressed his country's claim to the area, citing its interpretation of the border under the Rio accord,

which was supposed to set the boundary between Peru and Ecuador following their 1941 war.

"We are going to enforce the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, which is an international treaty that has to be respected, respected through diplomatic means and by arms," he said.

Peru contends the entire 1,600-km border was established by the treaty after Ecuador lost the war. But Ecuador nullified the agreement in 1960, before the border was fully marked.

Each side claims the other started the latest fighting.

Delegates from Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States ended five days of cease-fire talks in Rio de Janeiro, saying Ecuador had asked for more time to study the proposals.

Sources in Rio said Peru had wanted a demilitarized zone nearly eight km wide, while Ecuador wanted a half-mile zone. Ecuador also wanted to keep its military posts in the disputed area. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.



A Chechen shepherd tends his sheep in relative serenity near the village of Samashki, 50-km west of Grozny, while Russian troops continue to bombard the capital with heavy fire. (Reuters)

Report: Russians cross crucial river in taking of Grozny

RUSSIAN forces said yesterday they had crossed the crucial Sunzha River in Grozny and gained ground in south-eastern parts of the city, but there were conflicting reports on the pace of their advance.

Itar-Tass news agency quoted regional military headquarters in Mordok as saying the Russians had seized Minutka Square, a key separatist stronghold in the south-east of Grozny.

"This ends the organized resistance of fighters on the territory of the entire city," it said. But at 5 p.m. Moscow's forces were still bombarding the area around Minutka and small groups of Chechen fighters continued moving towards the area from the south.

Civilians fleeing the shelling made no mention of seeing any Russian troops.

"We lived in a basement for several days but it was cold and there's nothing to eat. They are bombing there all the time. It was getting too dangerous to stay any longer," said Igor, a middle-aged man leaving with his wife and infant son.

Interfax news agency, in a conflicting report, quoted an unnamed Mordok official as saying Russian troops had crossed the Sunzha River some three km west of the city centre but had advanced no further.

Russian reports of military success in Chech-

LAWRENCE SHEETS

GROZNY

nya have frequently been over-optimistic. Chechen rebels, who have vowed to defend their homeland, say the struggle is far from over.

The Russian forces, sent into Chechnya on December 11 to crush the region's three-year independence bid, seized the central presidential palace two weeks ago, turning Minutka Square into the main centre of resistance.

The Russian air force continued attacking Chechen positions in the south of the city, where correspondents saw two Sukhoi Su-27 fighter-bombers making low passes to drop bombs.

Thick black smoke billowed into the air from fires in the city's industrial regions.

The fall of Grozny would not signal the end of Russia's military campaign in the North Caucasus territory.

Russian military officials say Gudermes, a town 40 km east of Grozny with strong fortifications and containing an estimated 5,000 fighters, is likely to become the next centre of resistance.

Echo Moskovy radio station yesterday quoted officials in Ingushetia, the region neighbouring

Chechnya, as saying the Russian army had bombed suburbs of Gudermes on Sunday.

Sergei Filatov, a top aide of President Boris Yeltsin, said yesterday 456 Russian servicemen had been officially registered as missing in action in Chechnya. Interfax news agency said.

The Russian army lists as missing those servicemen whose bodies have not been recovered and who have not officially been named as prisoners. Filatov said the number included the bodies of soldiers which had been recovered but not identified.

Earlier yesterday Interfax quoted Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai as saying that some 600 Russian servicemen had been killed in the eight weeks since the war started. Unofficial estimates say the real figure is much higher.

The Chechnya campaign has sparked wide

condemnation both at home and abroad.

Russian human rights activist Yelena Bonner, widow of Nobel peace laureate and Soviet-era dissident Andrei Sakharov, urged the West yesterday to halt aid to the Russian government until it stopped the war.

Bonner, who formerly backed Yeltsin as a main hope for democracy, said that in launching the war the Russian leader had crossed a line of no return and was now on an "anti-democratic path." (Reuters)

Major tries to heal Tory wounds as differences on Europe persist

LONDON (Reuters) - Aides to Prime Minister John Major, in the latest tactical shift to try to heal rifts over Europe among his ruling Conservatives, denied yesterday that he was raising new barriers to Britain joining a single currency.

Major in a speech on Friday appeared to set new terms for Britain's participation by saying the criteria in the 1991 Maastricht Treaty were a "necessary but not sufficient" condition for economic and monetary union (EMU).

His hard line delighted "Euro-sceptics" in his party, including Treasury Chief Secretary Jonathan Aitken, but angered pro-Europeans led by Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine.

Heseltine, in remarks widely interpreted as a warning to Major "not to cede more ground to the Euro-sceptics," said the government must not "wrap itself in a nationalist flag at next year's intergovernmental conference (IGC) to review Maastricht."

"The politics of frustration and

nostalgia will often tug at the coat-tails but the duty of government is to look ahead and lead," Heseltine wrote in the *Sunday Times*.

In what has now become a Monday-morning ritual in British politics, Major's aides scrambled to deny that the weekend's blood-letting portrayed an irreparably divided party.

Cabinet troubleshooter David Hunt said ministers were agreed that Britain would not sign up to a single currency in 1997 and would not prejudice a single currency at a future date.

"My fear is the prime minister's fear, that unless economic conditions were right, a single currency would tear the European Union apart," Hunt told BBC radio.

And a senior official said the "new conditions" Major had in mind for EMU were not new at all but "were contained in the Maastricht treaty for all to see."

The treaty says that in addition to four strict criteria - on inflation,

budget deficits, debt levels and interest rates - broader economic circumstances should be taken into account in deciding whether to go ahead with a single currency.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, the finance minister, is expected to use a speech on Thursday to warn that EMU was a non-starter unless problems such as deep-seated unemployment and widely varying productivity were tackled.

Major's opponents jumped on the Conservatives' disarray which is beginning to unnerve financial markets eager to see a record fifth successive victory for the ruling party in the next election, due by mid-1997.

Robin Cook, the foreign affairs spokesman of the main Labour Party opposition, called for a general election to clear the air before the 1996 IGC.

"How on earth can this Government, so divided in its own Cabinet position, put up a united front for Britain abroad?" Cook said on BBC radio.

Clinton gets policy honeymoon with Helms

DONALD M. ROTHBERG
WASHINGTON

SO far, Bill Clinton is enjoying an unexpectedly smooth foreign policy honeymoon with conservative firebrand Jesse Helms.

When the balance of power in the US Congress shifted last fall in favor of the Republicans, the veteran lawmaker - known for his colorful and unrelenting attacks on liberals including the Democratic president - became chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Many feared Helms would use his new powers to thwart the president's foreign policy.

But so far those fears are unrealized. An arms control treaty with Russia is progressing smoothly through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee toward ratification. The panel resisted the opportunity to use the hearing on a new ambassador to Israel as a forum for a review of Middle East policy.

How long will the good relations last? Probably about as long as it takes the committee to take on divisive issues like UN peacekeeping, foreign aid and reorganization of the State Department.

Further along, the panel is ready to ask tough questions about any plan to put US troops as peacekeepers on the Golan Heights.

Over the years, Helms has made no secret of his dislike of the United Nations. He now has plenty of support among the new Republican majority for cutting back US support for UN peacekeeping.

A measure of the administration's concern about the United Nations was the appearance Friday of UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright at the State Department's regular briefing for reporters, where she denounced as "very bad foreign policy" a House bill that would reduce the US contribution to peacekeeping.

A Republican congressional source familiar with

Helms' thinking on the issue suggested the Senator would like to go further than the House committee.

Peacekeeping is "a waste of effort," said the source. He said that in most cases, the international community ought to stay out of violent disputes.

"If they want to fight, let them fight," he said.

For years the Foreign Relations Committee has sidestepped foreign aid, leaving the issue to the Senate Appropriations Committee to decide. Under Helms, that's likely to change. The North Carolina Republican is determined to make a 50 percent cut in aid to countries outside the Middle East.

Israel and Egypt get a total of about \$6 billion in US aid. The rest of the world splits \$7 billion. If Helms gets his way, the \$7 billion will be cut to about \$3.5 billion.

He'd also like to see the elimination of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and the Agency for International Development, with their functions folded into the State Department. The Clinton administration is leaning against it the idea.

James W. Nance, a retired admiral and boyhood friend of Helms, is the new majority staff director of Foreign Relations. He predicts that the panel will demand detailed answers about any plan to station US troops on the Golan Heights.

Both the Bush and Clinton administrations told Israel and Syria the United States would consider participating in a Golan Heights peacekeeping force if that would bring about a peace agreement between the two countries.

Such a commitment would require congressional approval, and Nance said he has told the administration that it better be prepared to answer a lot of questions about how it would work. (AP)

'Mastermind' of US terror plot pleads guilty

NEW YORK (AP) - The alleged mastermind of a campaign of bombings and killings pleaded guilty yesterday to plotting a war of urban terrorism and implicated his religious leader, Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman.

Siddiq Ibrahim Siddiq Ali, a Sudanese immigrant who once said the plot would show Americans "We can get you anytime," pleaded guilty to all the counts. US attorney's office spokesman Marvin Smilgon did not say whether prosecutors had made a deal with Siddiq Ali in exchange for the plea.

Lynne Stewart, lawyer for Abdel-Rahman, called the development "amazing" and a "complete surprise" to all defense lawyers.

"I think we do feel we have been sandbagged," she said.

"Mr. Siddiq Ali is indeed going to

dance with the government."

John Jacobs, an attorney for another defendant, said Siddiq Ali had signed a cooperation agreement and then read a statement yesterday morning implicating the other defendants.

Siddiq Ali, 34, of Jersey City, New Jersey, was accused of conspiracy to wage a war of urban terrorism; solicitation and conspiracy to murder Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak; the attempted bombings; and shipping a firearm, using and carrying a firearm, and carrying destructive devices for that bombing plot.

The plea comes the week after testimony began in the trial of Abdel-Rahman and 11 followers, including Siddiq Ali, on charges they plotted a holy war of terror against the United States.

It is the largest terror trial in US history.

While Abdel-Rahman alleged-

ly was the terror group's spiritual leader, prosecutors accused Siddiq Ali of being the brains behind the actual plot. Reporters were not present at yesterday's court appearance, and court employees said later that the judge would not release the transcript until he had looked it over.

The trial was called off for yesterday so defense lawyers could determine their next step.

Stewart said defense lawyers could ask for a mistrial because it appeared that Siddiq Ali had been conducting talks aimed at resuming cooperation with the government before last week. But she added it might be a waste of time to start the trial over again.

"Maybe we should just plow on," she said.

In government undercover tapes, Siddiq Ali is often the one describing how the plans are to

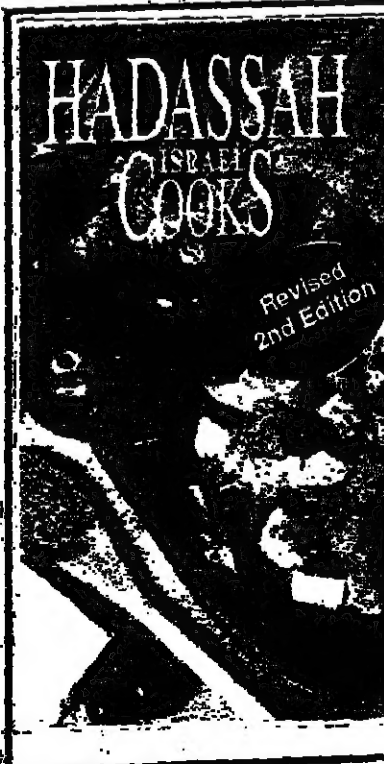
be carried out.

He can be heard threatening to kill another militant whom he suspects of cooperating with the FBI and promising retaliation if the four defendants in the bombing of the Trade Center were convicted.

The Feb. 26, 1993 Trade Center bombing, which killed six and injured more than 1,000, was part of a broader conspiracy, prosecutors say. Four followers of Abdel-Rahman were convicted last year and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Siddiq Ali did a deal with prosecutors last year but it broke down after a few months and he was returned to the defense.

At opening statements last week, prosecutor Robert Khuzami said, "This is a case about war. ... The enemy is the United States, the battlefield the streets and tunnels of New York City."



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Not just declarations

OCCURRING four days after the Cairo summit which ostentatiously condemned all bloodshed and violence, and two days before the scheduled Rabin-Arafat meeting, the latest terrorist strike in Gaza came as a shock. This was not another suicide bombing by fanatics aimed at bus riders in Tel Aviv or Netanyahu, but a well-planned, professional hit, executed in the presence of the Palestinian Police in an area under their complete control.

The organization responsible for the killing is apparently the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a PLO militia headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, whose headquarters are in Damascus. If nothing else, the operation should serve as a reminder that the "armed struggle" is not being waged exclusively by Islamic fanatics, but by secular radicals as well.

But it would be an error to assume that the action was a new departure. True, the attack marked the first time that Israelis providing essential supplies for Gaza Palestinians were targeted. But otherwise the only difference was that in this attack the perpetrators succeeded in their mission. Shooting at Israeli vehicles, both civilian and military, has become routine in the Gaza District. So routine that it almost never gets reported unless casualties are inflicted.

The media have described Yasser Arafat's reaction to the attack as a condemnation. But what he actually said was that the act was a blow to the Palestinian people; that as a result of the killing, the closure will probably continue, and the supply of gasoline and other staples to Gaza will be curtailed. Clearly, Arafat is not about to let even a killing in his own backyard ruin his unblemished record of never personally, publicly condemning the killing of Israelis.

The unequivocal condemnation of terrorism, to which Arafat committed himself before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to sign the Oslo agreement, came up yesterday in the US. Replying to a question by Zionist Organization of America leader Morton Klein, Arafat's acting foreign minister Nabil Shaath told a Jewish gathering in New York that the reason for Arafat's reluctance to publicly condemn terrorism is that his English is not very good.

Aside from the answer's insult to the intelligence of his audience, the fact is that it is not an Arafat condemnation of terrorism in English that is needed, but one in Arabic. His pre-Oslo

pledge was that he would personally denounce and renounce terrorism to his own people, and punish PLO factions that disobeyed his orders. His criticizing yesterday's attack on the grounds that it damaged the Palestinian cause cannot be considered a condemnation. It is an attack on the operation's timing. What Arafat is saying is that the killing of Israelis is not morally wrong and incompatible with the pursuit of peace, but that it is counter-productive.

Rabin's reaction, too, was disappointing. His first response was that Israel, too, cannot fully subdue terrorism. "Recently, a young woman from Elon Moreh was killed in an area controlled by us," he pointed out.

But the comparison is spurious. The main reason given by the government for negotiating with Arafat was that he is the only universally recognized Palestinian leader, and the only one the Palestinians would follow if he made peace. Now it is abundantly clear that they will not. It is no longer the "occupying forces" that the Palestinians are defying, but their own leader.

In fact, it is not at all clear to the terrorists that Arafat is opposed to their actions, and they cannot be blamed for believing that he tacitly supports them. Having declared: "We are all suicides, we are all martyrs," and having refused to say one word against the "armed struggle," Arafat can hardly expect even his most dedicated loyalists to believe that he is truly opposed to terrorism.

As a military man, Rabin is clearly less interested in condemnations than in action. Yesterday, he said Arafat would be measured by the degree of effort and resolve the Palestinian Authority shows in combating terrorism. But it is a mistake to dismiss the importance of personal declarations. Only Arafat's willingness to put his standing and reputation on the line by calling for a halt to the "armed struggle," and his ability to unite a majority of the Palestinian population behind an anti-terrorist effort, can justify negotiating with him.

Nor can Rabin afford to measure action merely by "effort and resolve." The only way to measure the effectiveness of the Palestinian Authority is simply to call off the talks until there is a complete cessation of terrorist activity. It is a demand made by other governments as a condition for negotiating with terrorist organizations. Israel should do no less.



Against acts of torture

OBLIGATIONS must be fulfilled, good times and bad, especially when they are clear and explicit and based on the defense of human rights.

This is a tough time for supporters of the peace process; it is even tougher for those who staunchly support human rights. But since citizens and governments tend to forget about human rights when a nation feels under threat, now is precisely the time to recall Israel's obligations concerning the prohibition against torture.

On October 22, 1986, Israel signed, and on August 4, 1991, ratified, the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

By signing the convention, Israel indicated that it finds torture abhorrent. It therefore committed itself to "take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction" (Art. 2(1)).

In its initial report, submitted in December 1993, to the UN's Committee Against Torture, Israel argued that its "strict rules for the handling of interrogations," which permit "moderate physical pressure," comply with the demands of the convention.

But after reviewing Israel's report, the committee refuted Israel's claim, stating that "it is a matter of deep concern that Israeli law pertaining to the defense of 'superior orders' and 'necessity' are in clear breach of that country's obligations under Article 2," which provides that no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, including any public emergency, justify torture.

The UN committee also regretted "the clear failure to implement the definition of torture as contained in Article 1 of the convention," which defines torture in terms of severe pain and suffering, whether physical or mental.

ZVI SHULMAN

and in terms of coercion and intimidation. In comparison, Israel's Penal Law uses the terms force or violence, a conspicuously laxer standard.

ISRAEL, of course, is not the only country that has committed itself to complying with the provisions of the UN convention against torture. For example, the United Kingdom, which has suffered greatly from terrorist acts in recent decades, enacted sec. 134

Even in tough times human rights must be upheld

(Torture), which uses the terms "severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental," and provides a punishment of life imprisonment.

Other countries have also enacted statutes in which the definition of torture and the punishment are consistent with the spirit of the convention.

The Knesset proclaimed Israel's commitment to ensure fundamental human rights when it enacted the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom (1992). The Basic Law, however, requires separate legislation to effectuate its spirit in regulating interrogations, and neither the government nor the Knesset has taken that initiative.

Several MKs recognized that Israel has failed to honor its commitments under the UN convention, and that legislation was necessary to give substance to the Basic Law and ensure the prohibition against torture. One proposal, dated June 16, 1993, and signed by nine MKs, prohibits torture ("severe pain and suffering, physical and mental") and prescribes punishments consist-

tent with the gravity of the offense.

On October 24 last year, five MKs proposed a "Human Dignity during Interrogation" law that also essentially reflects the demands of the convention (by defining a method that harms human dignity as "torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, violence or the threat of violence"). Under its provisions, a person convicted of committing torture would be subject to imprisonment for nine years and disqualification from ever serving with an authority involved in interrogations - a substantially greater punishment than the three-year sentence under current law.

When two GSS agents were found guilty of causing the death of a detainee during interrogation, the agents were ultimately sentenced to six months' imprisonment, after which they returned to work at the GSS. Such a lax sentence is incompatible with a commitment to human rights.

The government and the Knesset must fulfill their commitments. After all, nobody coerced the government into signing the Convention against Torture, or intimidated the Knesset into enacting the Basic Law.

Furthermore, they should act now, whether within the context of an inclusive General Security Service law or separately, because in times of stress and fear, governments can easily forget their obligations and ignore the universal human rights that belong to everybody - citizen, resident, even the enemy.

Human rights are not like tomatoes, that we buy when the price is right and shun when the price is high.

On the other hand, maybe human rights are like tomatoes, since they are so perishable.

The writer is English publications editor at B'Tselem.

Open door

JOYCE GABRIEL

SHOULD a man open a door for a woman? Should he hold her arm while crossing the street? Should he pay for dinner, or a movie, on a date? The underlying issue is how men and women relate to one another.

Etiquette has always been interesting because it is the outward manifestation of a culture's values, customs and mores. When a man holds open a door for a woman, he is exercising a sense of protectiveness or chivalry rooted in an earlier time when women were seen as the weaker sex.

Some women object to this behavior today because it speaks to them of inequality.

I think they're wrong. When we give up these manifestations of protectiveness from men and nurturing behaviors from women

Men and women are equal, but they're not the same

we are destroying some of the fabric of the ambience between the sexes. We are certainly equal, but we are not the same, and what a boring world it would be if we were.

To be protective of someone doesn't necessarily imply that one does not think that person is capable of taking care of herself. It can be just a manifestation of respect, and caring.

I thought the controversy over these issues had disappeared along with the zealotry of the early 1970s. I thought that women today were comfortable having men open doors for them, so long as they were not patronizing them in the process.

So I was quite surprised one day a couple of months ago, when a male colleague held a door open for me and then said, "I hope you don't mind that."

At first, I thought he was joking, but then I realized he was truly uncertain about how I would interpret such a gesture.

I WAS amazed. He was just being nice, kind, considerate. Could I have opened the door for myself? Of course. Would I have held open the door for him? Certainly. But I couldn't see how his opening a door for me could be interpreted as a slight.

I mentioned this to a couple of women colleagues, and was equally amazed by their response. Both of them thought that opening doors and helping women across the street were old-fashioned, patronizing ways to treat them. Their reaction saddened me.

It's those small niceties that can make a day. But my colleagues disagreed. Their position was, women can do these things for themselves. It's just a put-down when men do them for women.

A few days later, while I was still trying to reconcile their feelings with mine, another woman, single and in her 30s (a decade younger than I), was matter-of-factly explaining to me how she had offered to pay for dinner on her third date with a new male friend.

I guess I've been out of the singles action for too long. It would never occur to me to pay for a date someone had invited me on. I would certainly reciprocate by buying theater tickets or dinner and asking him out, but I wouldn't offer to pay for a date he'd arranged. But I realized, after asking other 20- and 30-somethings, that who pays on a date is a big issue.

Some women felt if they let a fellow buy them dinner, it obligated them to him. I've been bought a fair number of dinners in my life, and the price of dinner never made me feel obligated.

Other women felt that part of being truly equal to men meant paying their own way.

Can romance last in this environment?

I have my doubts. I think we need to look at what is essential to women's independence and equality. I don't think opening doors or paying for dinner is essential. More important, when we excise these niceties from our lives, I fear we're losing so much more than we could possibly be gaining.

(Stanford Advocate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WEAK RESPONSE

Sir, - Is there no limit to the appeasement policy of the Israeli government? Rabin's incredibly weak response to the latest (and it won't be the last) terrorist atrocity in Netanyahu makes one cringe with embarrassment, shame and anger.

Also, in my view, it constitutes a very dire threat to the safety of the entire Israeli population. The terrorist movement, emboldened by this policy of abject surrender, knows that the response of this Israeli government, will be pathetically weak. They know that there will be no meaningful retribution that will hurt them. So why should they stop their terrorism? Will Rabin be finally satisfied when he has brought the terrorist movement permanently into the entire Israel?

It is surely no exaggeration to say that the very existence of the State of Israel and the safety of its people depends on the speedy removal from power of Rabin and his entire government.

PROFESSOR HAROLD G. RUDOLPH
Johannesburg.

OBSCENE RHETORIC

Sir, - I was extremely saddened and disturbed on reading about the defamatory and ill-considered remarks by Col. Gershon Hachohen regarding the status of women in society in general and in the IDF in particular (January 27). It is one thing to hold such despicable views in private, but quite another to feel free to subject young women and men to such appalling and obscene rhetoric.

I find it difficult to see how an individual who displays such a total lack of judgment and self-control can be considered "a brilliant officer with a promising career ahead of him." A public apology, no matter how sincere and heartfelt, cannot possibly atone for the damage done. Hachohen's remarks hurt not only every person in Israel, but also the IDF, and our faith in them as a fair guardian of our nation - guided by the principles of equality and respect for all.

Perhaps the most devastating aspect of this entire episode is the fact that his remarks "created a stir" only when some of the young women left the auditorium in protest. Why did all the young men in the audience remain silent?

VICTORIA L.J. DAUBERT
Jerusalem.

NIXON'S DISCIPLE

Sir, - Prime Minister Rabin cannot have it both ways - although he always wants to. If he "wishes more of Washington's treatment of its president would rub off on Jerusalem" (David Makovsky, January 26), he might emulate President Clinton's treatment of Washington in his own treatment of Jerusalem.

President Clinton has accepted with control and courtesy the sorts of abuse which would leave Rabin spewing his famed expletives. If Clinton were, for instance, to call the Republicans "fascists" or "deserters" because they attacked his nonexistent war record, he could expect treatment not too different from that accorded to Rabin. And if he were foolishly enough to label opponents "crybabies" or "propellers" and derisively state that they did not "move" him with their concern or protests, he would be faced by unparalleled gridlock and hostility in government and press, and swiftly voted out of office when it was time for the voices of the "crybabies" to be heard.

Rabin, in fact, emulates not Clinton, but Nixon, who is his personal hero. Like Nixon, he despises dissent, hates protest and resents the public for questioning his superiority. Like Nixon, there appears to be no limit to what he will stoop to - dirty deals, name-calling, lying, politicizing the army, verbal and police brutality against opponents - to impose his doctrines. Our own press is largely devoted to perpetuating Rabin's regime and treats his bile and backtracking on commitments as acts of curmudgeonly charm; those who criticize are reduced to "haters of peace."

If Richard Nixon is his model, Rabin must ultimately expect the treatment Nixon got. He may also look forward to public resentment turning him out of office. But it is not the Nobel Peace Prize committee or those who "toast" Rabin "around the word as a great figure of the 20th century" who will reap the whirlwind. It is the Israeli people who will be left to rebuild, if they can, on the shambles of security, faith in institutions, honesty in government, respect for democracy, and unity of purpose which Rabin and his accomplices will have left us.

REENA RIBALOW BEN-EPHRAIM
Jerusalem.

FRIEND OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Sir, - For those who wrongly believed that the election of Newt Gingrich as House Speaker signaled a chilling of the relationship between the Jewish community and Capitol Hill, that issue has been dispensed of once and for all by Mr. Gingrich's decisive action in dismissing the newly appointed historian of the House of Representatives.

Gingrich fully understood that keeping Christina Jeffrey after she rejected funding for Holocaust studies on the grounds that they did not contain "the Nazi point of view" was an assault on the memory of millions of Holocaust victims and a calculated effort to distort and revise the history surrounding the Nazi Third Reich.

Speaker Gingrich remains a friend of the Jewish community, not only by word but by deed.

RABBI MILTON BALKANY
Brooklyn, N.Y.

THE JEWISH LEGION

Sir, - You recently published some letters regarding the Jewish Legion of World War I. Your various correspondents appear to have only superficial knowledge of that unprecedented development. These are the facts:

From the beginning of the War, the Zionist leader Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky, with the support of his friends, Joseph Trumpeldor and Col. John H. Patterson, worked assiduously to persuade the British government to permit the formation of a specifically Jewish fighting unit within the British armed forces. The US was not in the war at the time and only entered it much later. Therefore, the whole effort was concentrated in Britain.

After nearly three years, Jabotinsky's persistence bore fruit when the British agreed to the creation of "The Jewish Legion" - the 38th and 39th Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers. Most of the original members were volunteers recruited in Britain ("My Tailors of Whitechapel", as Jabotinsky described them in his book *The Jewish Legion*), Palestine and Egypt (where some Jews had moved from Palestine). Another group of volunteers was formed in the US and Canada, and they crossed the ocean to join this British formation.

YEHIEL KADISHAI
Tel Aviv.

Part of a bigger picture

SUPPORTERS of the so-called peace process point to Yasser Arafat's failure to honor the Oslo and Cairo agreements as a reflection of the weakness of his position.

The PLO chairman, they argue, cannot fight terrorism because doing so would jeopardize his leadership status. They maintain that the onus is on Israel to accelerate the peace process to bolster support for Arafat.

A strong Arafat, who can show his people that he can "deliver the goods" (disband the settlements, take over the West Bank, etc.) will be able to weather the criticism he will undoubtedly face if he fights the terrorists.

This argument ignores the fact that Arafat's violations of the agreements with Israel go far beyond matters relating directly to Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other "enemies of peace."

Arafat today has an army of between 13,000 and 15,000 soldiers instead of the 7,000 policemen provided for in the Cairo agreement. Arafat presented the list of police from overseas for Israel's approval, but has refused to do the same with the list of local recruits.

It is estimated that around half of the arms now held by the Palestinian Authority army have not been recorded with Israel. None of these violations have anything

AARON LERNER

to do with the "enemies of peace."

Perhaps the most sinister development is the activity of the PA secret police, which has devoted its resources to destroying Israel's intelligence capability in the entire West Bank and Jerusalem. The PA's agents have kidnapped, tortured and murdered Arabs suspected of collaborating with Israel.

On January 20, the PA went so far as to place a Jerusalem neighborhood under curfew to allow a house-to-house search for a suspected collaborator. At the same time, PA agents have established their own network of Israeli Arab collaborators.

No one from Hamas has forced Arafat to kill collaborators. Islamic Jihad did not insist that the PA smuggle in many thousands of illegal arms. The "enemies of peace" did not require that the PA recruit Israeli Arabs from Jaffa to engage in clandestine operations against Israel.

WHY THEN is Arafat doing all this? Doesn't he really want peace? Could it be because he is preparing a PLO army which can strike at Israel from close range in the next Arab-Israeli war?

Fighting alone, the PLO army

would at best be able to exact a heavy toll in Israeli casualties before being decimated. But in an Arab-Israeli war, the PLO army could play a crucial role in diverting IDF forces from their efforts to push back invading Arab armies.

Taking this into account, even if the PLO were to arrest - or even hand over to Israel - a Hamas terrorist as a "peace offering," this would not address the clear threat that the violations of the terms of the Cairo agreement represent to the future of the Jewish state.

Within this context, the Rabin plan for "separation," namely, handing over the West Bank to the PLO and putting up a dividing fence, plays into the hands of the PLO.

Within half a term, the Labor-Meretz government has succeeded in introducing a large and growing PLO army into the Gaza Strip, and has allowed the PA to decimate Israel's intelligence capability in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Withdrawal from the West Bank today as part of the much-touted "separation" could very well be another step toward the destruction of Israel.

The writer is an associate of IMRA (Independent Media Review & Analysis).

صكرا من الاصل

Less is more, but only when it's done right

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

Once read an observation by Pete Seeger about the human cost of a centralized recording and broadcasting industry. Seeger pointed out that whereas once, every village had its local star who competed only with the singer from the next village, now everyone has to compete with the creme de la creme, who were also recorded under superhumanly flattering circumstances.

The upshot is a brave new world full of natural-born performers whose audience and self-esteem are usurped by a handful of big-timers.

The Unplugged Collection, Volume One (Hed Arzi) is a showcase of 16 of those big-timers playing live and acoustic in MTV's version of the Global Village Hall. The "Unplugged" phenomenon is a child of the '90s, a reaction against the lip-synching sickness of the '80s.

The very first of the MTV shows took place in October 1989. It was hosted by songwriter Jules Shear, who invited a few bands in for a homey meet that invariably ended with a jam session that included himself.

But the concept grew like Topsoy, and soon the Unplugged stage had become the prestige spot where the biggest names in the business proved they could supply the real thing — an intimate village-style performance.

Jules Shear was out, and the likes of Rod Stewart were in. In fact the list of "names" on this album is downright mind-boggling, from Elton John to Paul Simon to REM.

But how good do they sound in this ultimate close-up? The album starts off surefootedly with the late Stevie Ray Vaughan and Eric Clapton demonstrating what the show is meant to be all about: one person armed only with his voice, a guitar and the song.

Both sing the blues with Vaughan doing "Pride and Joy" and Clapton on "Before You Accuse Me." Clapton's control is especially perfect, the ultimate example of less is more.

But when the album's editors attempt to pass the blues mantle on to the next generation's Lenny Kravitz, the momentum is quickly lost.

Kravitz's blues rendition of his own mega hit "Are You Gonna Go My Way" starts off flawlessly, but true to his inflated ego, quickly degenerates into a six-minute bore.

The bell-bottomed, dreadlocked '60s-simulator should heed Joni Mitchell's warning that Generation X should learn from the baby boomers' mistakes.

"We blew it!" she once explained in *Rolling Stone*, flattered that kids were still attracted to her own youthful longing for freedom, but appalled that they hadn't noticed that the revolution had failed.

The somewhat uneven pace continues, though overall, anyone who is keen on this kind of informality will find the album a good buy. Soul Asylum squeals its way through the highly intelligent angst of "Somebody to Shove," but sounds a little silly compared with k.d. laing's bril-



'The Unplugged Collection' from Hed Arzi features big names from Lenny Kravitz to Rod Stewart. (Universal Pictorial Press)



liantly smooth and sincere "Barefoot." Paul Simon's "Graceland" doesn't live up to the studio version, though one does hear his touching sadness.

But Elton John's ability to really perform "Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me," accompanying himself on grand piano, is far more impressive.

Paul McCartney flubbing the opening to "We Can Work It Out" is a noteworthy moment — all his dope smoking seems to have taken a toll on his vocal cords. But the song is a true clas-

sic, providing a moment that pulls you in as if you were there in the audience.

Neil Young, John Mellencamp and Rod Stewart have all had finer moments, but Elvis Costello on the blistering "Deep Dark Truthful Mirror" and Don Henley on the torchy "Come Rain or Come Shine" truly enhance their reputations.

Annie Lennox on "Why?" and Natalie Merchant of 10,000 Maniacs on "Don't Talk" provide a much-needed counterpoint to the boys' club aspect of this honor

roll. And REM closes up with a fine "Half A World Away."

There is plenty to listen to on this album. Nonetheless, in providing an illustrious overview of highlights, it paradoxically undercuts the small, live-show feeling that is Unplugged's true selling point.

There's no chance to develop and build intimacy with the audience, as the shows do in the course of a really great evening. Unplugged albums by Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton or Nirvana capture the spirit of the phenomenon

far better. The village performer provided a meeting point for the neighborhood, a context for gathering together.

At its best, *Unplugged* does something similar, using the excellence of the performers as a means of forging at least a semblance of a bond between millions of real-time viewers.

But this collection misses out on this essence of what has made the Unplugged series such a welcome antidote to the sickness of state of the art recording.

Fauré gets shortchanged by long-winded program

CONCERT ROUNDUP

GABRIEL Fauré is a much neglected composer, though his unique position, between late romanticism and early impressionism, should have guaranteed that his works would frequently appear in concert programs. So this concert, marking the 150th anniversary of his birth, was a welcome diversion from routine. Regrettably, it was hardly a celebration.

The concert was preceded by a lecture-demonstration by Astrit Baltan, who seemed to forget about her timetable and spoke for almost an hour. The result was a three-hour marathon, from which this critic had to leave, foregoing perhaps the most important item on the program, the Piano Quartet.

One cannot dispute Miss Baltan's charming, easygoing narrative. Her imaginative style enlivened and enhanced her explanations.

However, her approach was often childish, simplistic and much too superficial. She was also tendentious, which led to nonmusical, program-music related explanations.

Talking about Fauré's works as program music may be the easiest way to capture the imagination of laymen, but his compositions were much more than that and his inspiration cannot be explained away as hanging on a pre-

occupation with water.

Water is undoubtedly one of the most important objects of impressionistic painting and music. But to treat water as the quintessence of Fauré's compositions ignores his music's incredible subtlety, delicately introverted sensuality and delightful dissonance. It also misses the Gallic composer's almost mystical intimacy with the music of the Teutonic Wagner, which he both adored and to which he felt drawn.

Ignoring these devalues Fauré and turns him into a second- or even third-rate composer, living suspended in some kind of indefinable no-man's land. What Miss Baltan gave us was a most limited and curtailed portrait.

As to the music, very little can be said. For this critic, the only piece performed at all adequately in interpretation was the *Elegie* for Cello and Piano with cellist Hillel Zori and pianist Tomer Lev.

In the violin sonata, soloist Nitai Zori was constantly off key, with Lev, at the piano, disregarding all delicacy.

The songs, delivered by soprano Shirli Hecht with Astrit Baltan at the piano, failed to create even the most modest impression. Miss Hecht has neither the volume, the depth of tone nor the feeling of sensuality to turn her

into an interpreter of Fauré. Tel Aviv Museum, January 28. Benjamin Bar-Am

RUSSIAN songs and romances are no doubt enjoyable, and so are operatic arias. Lumping both of these together, though, may cause musical indignation.

A piano substituting for an orchestral accompaniment is, likewise, not in the best taste, especially as there is no shortage of original repertoire for voice and piano.

The latest in the concert series at Jerusalem's Mevakesh Derech Congregation, highlighting new immigrant musicians, did just that.

Susanna Poretsky has what it takes to be a great mezzo-soprano: a resonating, but soft and flexible voice; a warm and dark-timbered low register; clean, never-strained high notes; emotional expression and natural, unobtrusive charm.

These qualities were most obvious in an aria from Tchaikovsky's *Jeanne d'Arc*, while she was too good-natured to be a convincing femme fatale in "Habenera" from Bizet's *Carmen*.

There is a force, brilliance and an overdose of self-assuredness in Yevgeny Shapovalov's tenor, but his vocal technique makes

him sound strained, besides his inclination to sentimentality and melodrama. These proved to be an asset, nevertheless, in Len-ski's aria from Tchaikovsky's *Evgeny Onegin*. With his remarkable endowments, he may still be a sought-after tenor for the Russian repertoire, or for nostalgic get-togethers of Kalinka-style group singing.

Pianist Susanna Lemberetskaya's accompaniment breathes routine and solidity. Except for some excessively forceful pounding on the helpless keyboard, she showed that she is an altogether reliable accompanist.

Mevakesh Derech Congregation, Jerusalem, January 28. Ury Eppstein

CELLIST Amit Peled, 22, deserves two bouquets. One is for including on the program Kodaly's Cello Solo Sonata, one of the most intriguing, demanding and infrequently performed works of the 20th-century cello repertoire. The other is for performing it well in the Youth at the Center series.

There is something sweepingly temperamental about Peled's playing, with a rich sound and the sense that he is unreservedly immersed in the music. He appears to have no technical problems,

which means a lot in a work as studded with potential problems as this.

Chopin's Five Pieces for Cello and Keyboard, with pianist Noam Greenberg, 21, were more emphatically delineated in character than the usual treatment of the diabolism of the concluding "Air de Diable" movement turned out to be that of a particularly good-natured devil, which added to his satanic charm.

The emotionally high-voltage Sonata in F by Brahms was played with all the enormous tension and release that makes it so gripping.

It gave Greenberg a chance to display his talents as a full-fledged artist in his own right, playing in true chamber music spirit, sensitive to the music and to his partner.

Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, February 3. Ury Eppstein

YOUNG Irish guest conductor Jonathan Webb led the Israel Sinfonietta, Beersheba, in an all-Schubert program that had spunk.

His performance of the Italian Overture, Military March and Symphony No. 5 — especially the fast movements — had a lively energy that held one's interest and attention throughout. The slow movements, however, projected

neither depth of feeling nor warmth.

Schubert's "Arpeggione" Sonata has been arranged for many instruments in the orchestra. Clarinet soloist Yevgeny Yehudin, accompanied by the Sinfonietta strings, brought to this version fluent technique, rounded phrasing, total sensitivity and sound stylistic taste. The program will be repeated tonight in Kiryat Gat.

Beersheba Conservatory, February 4. Max Stern

GENTLE pianist Phillip Luria presented an unusual all-Chopin program that traced the Polish composer's relationship with 19th-century French authors George Sand. Well-known preludes, nocturnes, polonaises and impromptus alternated with literary excerpts from her correspondence, diaries, novels and autobiography.

The program was sponsored by the French Cultural Institute of Beersheba and took place at a new venue for music in the Negev — the Museum for Israeli Art, Beersheba, February 2. Max Stern

Kol Demama revival has all the power of a premiere

MOSHE Efrati's Kol Demama, celebrating its 20th anniversary, performed his *La Folia* ("The Madness") at the Gesher Theater in Old Jaffa on Thursday. Though described as a revival, and indeed first reviewed in 1988, it had in all respects the impact of a premiere.

Except for three or four details, it was impossible to forget — the young man who danced through many episodes, the four figures in stretch material like Martha Graham's *Lamentation*, the characteristic march elements, the discipline amid the chaos of madness, Yossi Banai's voice and Noam Sheriff's music — it was fresh, aggressive, hard-hitting in the most modern manner.

Was there a theme in all this changing but continuous texture of dance? Yes, a struggle to convey human variations of mood and feeling. The style was alternatively spasmodic and deliberate. The movement ranged from ballet (one dancer on her toes) through the permutations of modern dance. The effect was riveting.

Symbolism too had its place. Figures in black or red or white, mostly in the throes of emotional disturbance, filled the scene.

Are there still non-hearing dancers among the score that

DANCE REVIEW DORA SOWDEN

have appeared in this animated, coordinated, pulsating company? There were moments when the continuous floor beat was a reminder of the origins of Demama, but there was no indication that any of the dancers were deaf.

Noam Sheriff's music helped make the rhythms persistent, but its murmurs and stresses were less important than they had

seemed in earlier performances. Its values most alive where he incorporated well-known melodies especially the one made famous by Corelli in his *La Folia* sonata.

The sum total of *La Folia* held together through the twists and turns of its images and its action because of Efrati's distinctive idiom and impulse, sometimes frightening, always with clout achieved by high jumps, high

kicks and fast-forward tensions. The main strength of the company was in the ensemble scenes. There were no soloists of the caliber of earlier days — Esther Nadler and Gabi Barr — but there were good individual dancers.

Ultimately, however, it was Moshe Efrati who was the star of the evening. He had made his *Folia* topical, mystical and as dynamic as a soccer match, but much closer to the bone.

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#2	5	3	SHALOM HANOCH	VI-OL-ENCE
#3	1	5	FILM SOUND TRACK	PULP FICTION
#4	2	18	CRANBERRIES	NO NEED TO ARGUE
#5	3	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT LIST 3
#6	18	70	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#7	6	8	NATASHA'S FRIENDS	RADIO BLAH BLAH
#8	4	6	MASHINA	SO LONG, KIDS
#9	13	24	RIITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#10	RE	1	AHINQAM NINI	NINIDOR
#11	RE	1	NIRVANA	UNPLUGGED IN N.Y.
#12	9	15	STING	FIELDS OF GOLD
#13	NEW	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	TOP POP 85
#14	15	2	LUCIANO PAVAROTTI	PAVAROTTI AND FRIENDS
#15	8	14	SADE	BEST OF

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE — re-entry

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1995

IAI workers threaten to launch strike

ISRAEL Aircraft Industries workers yesterday threatened to launch a strike on Sunday if management does not reach agreements with them by Thursday.

Management has refused to sign agreements with the clerks, research staff and technical managers, although deals have been reached with other trade unions in the company.

Haim Katz, secretary of the

NEIL COHEN
and ALON PINKAS

National Union of IAI Workers, said management was "trying to take away the workers' self respect," although he did not give details on the dispute.

Katz said the workers voted unanimously to shut down the entire company if the agreements are not signed with all the remaining unions.

In response to the strike threat, IAI management said some workers were inevitably hurt by the recovery plan, which was agreed upon by management, workers and the government.

"Management is conducting a continuous dialogue in an effort to find a solution and hopes that the threat of a strike next Sunday will be averted," an IAI statement said.

Israel Shipyards workers strike

ISRAEL Shipyards workers held a warning strike yesterday morning following the sale of the government company to SKO Car for NIS 40.5 million.

The workers fear they will be fired, even though SKO Car has set aside NIS 22m. in compensation for those who might be dismissed.

HAIM SHAPIRO

The private company has also promised to maintain the level of such compensation at pre-purchase levels for two years.

Israel Shipyards managing director Ze'ev Almog yesterday told Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar he would remain in office

until the company was transferred to its new owners to ensure its smooth running.

Kessar, who expressed satisfaction for refusing to allow the sale of the company for a lower sum, said he would follow developments in the company to ensure that the workers' rights are protected.

Three projects win first awards from US-Israel commission

JOSE ROSENFELD

TWO joint projects and a feasibility study won the first US-Israel Science and Technology Commission matching awards of \$7.1 million, US Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown and Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish announced yesterday.

The commission will fund half the projects' cost, with the companies contributing the remainder of the expenses.

"We selected from a highly competitive pool of proposals, three future-oriented projects on nuclear medicine, aquaculture and renewable solar energy that can meet near-term needs and provide a basis for long-term economic growth and job creation in both the United States and Israel," said Brown.

The commission selected a \$9.25m. project to develop a new generation of compact, high performance imaging cameras to record nuclear tracers, creating images that can help determine the health of organs such as the heart, lungs and brains and identify cancer.

GE Medical Systems and eV Products of the US, together with Isorad, will carry out the project.

The second project, which will cost \$6m., will develop new products and technologies for efficient year-round production of farmed seafood.

AquaPharm Technologies Corp. and AquaFuture Inc. from the US have teamed up with Maragan Michael Fish Breeding Center and Ardag.

In addition, McDonnell Douglas Aerospace, Ormat, Elop, Rotem and the Weizmann Institute/Yeda will receive \$100,000 for a feasibility study to develop a high efficiency, modular solar central receiver power generation system that can compete with conventional power generation sources.

Should the study be successful, the \$8m. project will be entitled to a grant.

Asked why the commission came up with only two projects

and a feasibility study out of 108 submissions, Commerce Department Counselor Jan Kalicki said the reviewers needed more time.

He added that the \$30m. which both sides committed for the next three years will be spent.

Industry and Trade Ministry Chief Scientist Shuki Gleitman, who last year approved over 1,300 research and development projects and distributed more than \$300m. in grants, said more projects were not approved due to the lack of money.

"There were 11 projects that we could have approved if we had the money," he said. Already, yesterday's grants have taken up nearly a third of available funding.

Gleitman noted it was an achievement that within a year of its establishment the commission was able to come up with very concrete achievements.

"It took more than five years for the US-Israel Binational Re-

search and Development Foundation (BIRD) to reach this point," he said. Gleitman added that unlike BIRD projects, these are higher risk and would never happen without the commission's intervention.

Gleitman said yesterday's deliberations with his US partners were very positive and productive.

The commission is expected to announce additional grants, when it meets in the US in July.

Both Harish and Brown marked the fact that the US-Israel Free Trade Area agreement had reached its 10th anniversary. Harish expressed concern about changes the Americans are making to the rule of origin requirements in the deal.

The rules of origin set minimum local content ratio on exports to qualify them as Israeli or US products.

Brown said the changes are of an administrative nature, and they would not be changed until the matter is cleared with Israel.

Bagel Ha'zahav sues Elco for NIS 1m. in compensation

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BAGEL Ha'zahav yesterday filed a lawsuit in the Tel Aviv District Court for NIS 1 million in compensation from Elco, Shekem's new owners.

In the suit, the bakery said it signed an exclusive distribution agreement with Shekem four months ago by which Shekem must distribute 70 percent of Bagel Ha'zahav's monthly production.

Bagel Ha'zahav claims it made large investments in infrastructure and for improving its products after it signed the agreement.

In the claim, Bagel Ha'zahav said it was surprised to receive newspaper clippings revealing Shekem's decision to close its pastry plant and fire its workers.

The company, which is stuck with large supplies, claims it had no prior warning of the plant's closure. Bagel Ha'zahav is suing Shekem for financial damage, loss of customers and damage to its reputation.

In the last week of January, Shekem decided to temporarily close its plant in Holon, and 70 workers were told they were being fired.

Controlling shares in banks to be deposited with trustee

EVELYN GORDON and JOSE ROSENFELD

CONTROLLING shares in the major banks will be deposited with an Israeli trustee after they are sold, to prevent them from being resold to a hostile party, the Bank of Israel confirmed yesterday.

MK Ariel Weinstein (Likud), who revealed this fact to Knesset reporters, said he received a promise to this effect from both Treasury and Bank of Israel officials.

Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles confirmed this, but said it was not new. This requirement has always been on the books for

the sale of a bank, he said.

The appointment of an Israeli trustee means that if the bank's new owner wanted to resell his shares, he would first need the trustee's consent. This ensures that the shares cannot be transferred to a hostile party.

Weinstein said he asked the question due to the reported progress in talks on the sale of Bank Leumi to the Safra family.

On another question, however, he did not get a straight answer, he said. The Treasury and the central bank are still debating how to ensure that if the Safra do buy Leumi, its operations will be kept completely separate from those of the First International Bank, which is owned by a different branch of the family.

This problem must be solved before the Safra are allowed to buy Leumi, Weinstein said.

Friedmann reconsidering resignation

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi general manager David Friedmann is reconsidering his decision to resign from the bank, following pressure from several of the bank's directors to change his mind.

Friedmann, who informed the bank of his plans to resign two months ago, is scheduled to leave in April.

In a radio interview yesterday, Bank Leumi chairman Moshe Sanbar said he asked Friedmann to reconsider his resignation, adding that other Leumi directors, also support the renewal of his tenure.

"I have asked Friedmann to inform me of his final decision by February 28," said Sanbar. "Friedmann will remain chairman of Africa Israel (Bank Leumi's real estate subsidiary), even if he decides to resign from the bank."

Earlier this week, Bank Leumi's board of directors appointed Friedmann as Africa Israel chairman. Friedmann takes over from Sanbar, who resigned due to the worsening relations between him and Africa Israel general manager Shlomo Grofman.

Sanbar denied reports he was forced to resign. "I told the board of directors I am no longer interested in continuing in this position, which involves participating in tense meetings. My health is more important, and for this reason I decided to resign."

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MEY-EZOR-DAN

Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

Tender 425/M.E.D/92

Supply and Erection of High Mast Lighting Systems for Soreq Biological Plant - Phase B

Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd. invites contractors to submit bids for The Supply and Erection of High Mast (30 m.) Lighting Systems (425/MED/92)

The tender documents and forms of tender can be obtained between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., against payment of NIS 500 (non-refundable) at the MEY-EZOR-DAN offices, 24 Nahalat Benyamin Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-5177144.

Bids should be submitted in two copies on the forms provided, and in compliance with the conditions of the tender.

Bids, accompanied by a bank guarantee for US\$10,000 or the equivalent in New Israel Shekels, as stated in the tender instructions, and valid for 120 days from the last day for submitting bids, must be placed in the tenders box not later than March 1, 1995, at 12 noon. Bids should not be sent by mail.

The envelope containing the bid should be marked: Mey-Ezor-Dan Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd., Tender 425/M.E.D/92.

Bids arriving after the closing time as mentioned, and bids submitted without the bank guarantee will not be considered. Bids may be submitted by manufacturers with qualifications and specialized experience, as specified in the tender documents.

A pre-tender meeting and site visit for bidders will be held on February 14, 1995 at 13:00, starting at the administration offices at the Soreq plant site. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid, for the tender works or parts thereof.

Ben-Zion Moradov, Chairman

Mey-Ezor-Dan

Agricultural Cooperative Water Society Ltd.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TRA Architecture Engineering wins tender for terminal: US Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown and Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar last night announced a \$17.8 million tender award by the Israel Airport Authority to TRA Architecture Engineering for a terminal at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Two other US firms also won contracts - Skidmore, Owins and Merrill won a \$15.9 million contract for another terminal and Parsons Brinkerhoff was awarded a \$4.9m. contract for parking, roadway and infrastructure at the airport.

Government fees can now be paid by check: The administrative cabinet committee yesterday decided to allow individuals to pay all government fees by check. It also eliminated Interior Ministry fees that are less than NIS 10.

Cattle breeders upset over rash of thefts: Cattle breeders are threatening to take the law into their hands due to a sharp increase in thefts lately. The Agriculture Ministry yesterday reported that 150 heads of sheep and cattle were confiscated last month at border crossings between the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

According to the cattle breeders, police attempts to reduce the theft rate have failed so far, resulting in NIS 4 million in stolen goods last year.

Plan withdrawn for building prison in Atarot industrial zone: The government has backtracked on its plans to put a civilian prison in the Atarot industrial zone, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday. The Manufacturers Association therefore withdrew its petition to the court against the prison, which it had said would destroy the area for businesses. However, the state said it may still decide to build a prison for security offenders there, and the association said it will petition the court if it does.

Eight state firms appeal for exemption from tenders law: Eight government companies have appealed to the Knesset Finance Committee for an exemption from the new government tenders law, saying it will make doing business too difficult. The committee began discussing the appeals yesterday, but has not yet made any decisions.

The companies are the Israel Electric Corporation, the National Oil Company, the National Coal Supply Company, TAAS, Israel Aircraft Industries, Elta, the Oil Refineries and Isorad.

Pana signs agreement with Moroccan company: Pana Energy Resources Development will sell know-how and technology to Morocco for providing electricity, the firm said yesterday. Pana said the deal with Office National de l'Electricite de Maroc was the first agreement between an Israeli and Moroccan company.

Rada sells subsidiary to US-based firm for \$9 million: Rada will sell subsidiary Kellstrom to US-based firm ITAC for \$9 million, the company announced yesterday. The Miami-based Kellstrom is active in the purchase and sale of commercial aircraft motor components. ITAC - Israel Technology Acquisition Corporation - is a publicly traded company.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.2.95)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (USD 100,000)	5.500	5.575	5.500	
U.S. dollar (USD 200,000)	5.125	5.125	5.125	
U.S. dollar (USD 500,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800	
U.S. dollar (USD 1,000,000)	4.675	4.675	4.675	
Yen (10 million yen)	0.625	0.750	0.875	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.2.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.3250	3.3850	3.3850	3.3810
German mark	2.0850	2.0850	2.0850	2.0810
French franc	4.6748	4.6748	4.6748	4.6710
Japanese yen (100)	0.5549	0.5723	0.5549	0.5710
Dutch guilder	3.0070	3.0495	3.0070	3.0410
Swiss franc	1.7494	1.7741	1.7494	1.7710
British pound	2.3154	2.3481	2.3154	2.3410
Scandinavian krona	0.3589	0.4025	0.3589	0.4010
Norwegian krona	0.4671	0.4538	0.4671	0.4510
Danish krone	0.4671	0.4538	0.4671	0.4510
Finland mark	0.6332	0.6421	0.6332	0.6410
Canadian dollar	2.2116	2.2584	2.2116	2.2510
Australian dollar	0.8443	0.8522	0.8443	0.8510
S. African rand	0.9522	0.9655	0.9522	0.9610
South African rand (10)	2.7521	2.8221	2.7521	2.8210
Italian lira (1000)	1.8902	1.8902	1.8902	1.8910
Spanish peseta	—	—	—	—
Israeli shekel	3.6552	3.7474	3.6552	3.7410
Israeli shekel (100)	4.6294	4.6917	4.6294	4.6910
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2587	2.2508	2.2587	2.2510

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Matza blasts Sarid and SPNI over Dead Sea Concession Law

KNESSET INTERIOR Committee chairman Yehoshua Matza (Likud) yesterday accused Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel of "deliberately undermining the country's interests" over the Dead Sea Works Concession Law.

The law passed its final reading by a comfortable majority of 26 to 6 late last night.

The bill binds the company to the National Planning and Construction and Business Licensing

LIAT COLLINS

laws, which establish rules on environmental protection and hazardous materials but allows it several escape clauses if it wants to carry out construction work in its concession area.

The bill also overrides the minister's right to issue a closure order over environmental violations.

Matza, who last week complained to the prime minister about Sarid, was particularly in-

furiated by a letter to the SPNI from the huge international group, Friends of the Earth.

In the letter, the group's president Brent Blackwater wrote: "The government of Israel appears to favor privatization of the company with a sale of shares to investors, including investors in the US. Such a sale of a company, which may cause environmental damage, would be in direct conflict with the efforts of most ma-

ior environmental organizations in the US to encourage socially responsible investing."

Matza, speaking in the plenum, maintained the new law was stricter than the previous emergency measures. Sarid and the SPNI claim they have not deliberately set anybody against the bill. "All we did was publish its contents. If Matza has a problem with that, it's a sign he has a problem with the contents of the bill," said an SPNI spokeswoman.

High Court petition rejects collection of organization tax from public sector

THE collection of an organization tax from all public-sector workers, whether Histadrut members or not, is illegal, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday.

The petition was filed by one of the Histadrut's rivals, the Likud-affiliated Histadrut Haleumit, and MK Avraham Hirschson (Likud). It asks that the agreement recently signed by the Treasury and the Histadrut be declared null and void, or, alternatively, that Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir be prevented from extending it to the private sector.

So far, Namir has refused to extend the agreement, but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had previously promised the Histadrut that it would be extended.

According to the agreement, members of the Histadrut, or any union having a collection agreement with the Histadrut, will pay 0.9 percent of their salaries as union dues. In addition, many

EVELYN GORDON and MICHAL YUDELMAN

people who are not members of any union will pay 0.7 percent of their salaries, but members of independent unions - such as Leumi or the teachers union - will not pay anything at all.

The agreement was drawn up as a result of the National Health Law, which cut the Histadrut, Leumi, Hapoel Hamizrahi and Poalei Agudat Yisrael off from their previous source of funding - dues paid to Kupat Holim Clalit.

Since the agreement also forbids the Treasury to make a similar deal with Leumi and its fellow unions without the Histadrut's consent, it effectively cuts these other unions out of the funding loop, the petition charges. This is clear government discrimination against the other unions in the Histadrut's favor, the petition continued, and it is therefore an infringement on the right to organize and on freedom of occupation.

"The agreement... is the result of a political conspiracy between the Histadrut and the government, whose goal is to destroy the other workers' organizations and create a monopoly for the Histadrut," Hirschson charged, citing "the political ties between the leaders of the Histadrut and the leaders of the country" who signed the agreement.

The petition also noted that Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair had said it would be illegal to force all workers to pay union dues, and that only a voluntary collection system for those who are actually members would be legal.

It is therefore surprising, the petition said, that the government signed an agreement which does force many non-members to pay dues to the Histadrut.

Finally, the petition said, the special status the government has

always given the Histadrut is due to its being by far the largest of the different unions. However, its membership was artificially swelled because all members of Kupat Holim Clalit were considered Histadrut members. Now that the health fund has been separated from the union, the petition noted, the Histadrut's membership is expected to drop considerably. Therefore, it said, it is not clear the Histadrut deserves these special benefits anymore. At the very least, it should be forced to take a new membership census to determine its real size, the petition said.

In other news, Hirschson yesterday submitted a parliamentary question about Na'amat chairwoman's Ofra Friedman's reported NIS 27,000 salary. It is ridiculous, he said, that the organization is forcing non-members to pay dues so it can give senior officials salaries which are twice that of a government minister.

Hizbullah vows to continue striking at SLA

HIZBULLAH leaders have vowed to continue hitting the South Lebanese Army, while continuing the "resistance" against the IDF in the security zone.

"We won't allow the collaborator army (SLA), which is in a coma, to catch its breath and recover," Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, a senior member of Hizbullah was quoted as saying in Lebanese newspapers yesterday.

Hizbullah, taking advantage of the reported low morale in the SLA, has intensified its attacks

against the force in the past few months in parallel with a relentless propaganda campaign.

The IDF, which has boosted its forces in the zone and taken over some outposts previously held by the SLA, has been responding to Hizbullah attacks with more intensity than in the past, and has been initiating more operations.

It has also begun supplying the SLA with more arms and equipment and improving the lot of soldiers and their families, as well

DAVID RUDGE

as generally boosting civil aid to residents of the zone to bolster the force and raise morale.

The efforts appear to have paid off, although Hizbullah has continued to carry out attacks, including a series of roadside bombings against SLA personnel deep in the zone. In two recent cases, however, the attacks backfired and resulted in the death of a total of four Lebanese civilians and the wounding of several others.

Nevertheless, Kaouk's comments indicated that Hizbullah will continue its two-pronged offensive against the SLA, while seeking opportunities to hit IDF targets. "We won't let any human

barrier (SLA) come between us and the Zionist occupiers," Kaouk was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile, UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said yesterday that Hizbullah gunmen threatened and fired at one of its patrols in Kirbat Salim village, north of the security zone, on Sunday.

Goksel said armed Hizbullah men surrounded the patrol, consisting of around 10 troops in two armored personnel carriers, and opened fire at the vehicles when the troops refused to obey their demands to stop patrolling in the region.

There were no casualties among the UNIFIL soldiers, who took cover in the vehicles and later continued their patrol.

EILAT and the NEGEV

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The Children of Israel passed by during their forty years of wandering, King Solomon built his navy here, the Queen of Sheba visited, the Scandinavians come in their droves and now The Jerusalem Post Travel Club and Shorashim are running a stimulating and informative English-speaking 4-day tour. We'll pick you up in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, visit Jebel Chofera and the Paran River Valley, Wadi Musa, Ein Evrona and the Gate of Peace on our way to Eilat. We'll visit the Timna Park, Solomon's Pillars, The "Mushroom," the Bronze Caves, Moon Valley, Mt. Uziyahu, Red Canyon and more, much more. We'll stay at the Red Sea Paradise Hotel, recently built with super facilities, 3 swimming pools, health club, sauna, jacuzzi, kid's club, etc.

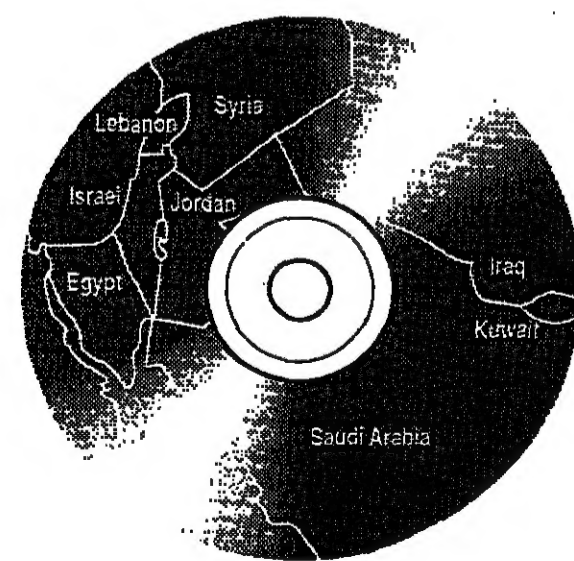
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Policemen saves woman from burning flat

Cpl. Erez Hori of the Petah Tikvah police saved the life yesterday of wheelchair-bound Tzaila Levy, 80, when he burst into her burning apartment and pulled her unconscious body from a smoke-filled room. Levy had left an electric heater too close to a blanket and it caught fire. She was taken to Beilinson Hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. After her condition improved, she was transferred to the pressure chamber at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Man killed while waiting for bus

A Nazareth man was struck and killed by a van as he waited for a bus at Haifa's checkpoint junction yesterday morning. Mohammed Najjar, 51, was hit by a van driven by Shmuel Avram, 55, of Haifa. A Magen David Adom crew declared Najjar dead at the scene. Avram was released on NIS 10,000 bail, after appearing before a Haifa Magistrate's Court judge.

Youth indicted for bid to kill reservist

A 16-year-old from Ramallah has been indicted in Ramallah Military Court for the attempted murder of reservist Shmuel Meiri, who was attacked by a mob when, by mistake, he drove into downtown Ramallah two months ago. Television cameras captured the youth stabbing Meiri. Seventeen Palestinians have been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the mob attack.

Arabs try to coordinate NPT stand

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt, Syria and the six conservative Gulf states tried yesterday to draft a common position on extending the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, linking it with Israel's own nuclear policy. The foreign ministers of the eight "Damascus Declaration" states were expected to include a reference to the treaty in the joint statement they were due to issue in Cairo last night at the end of the two-day conference.

Police question Gonen Segev

Energy Minister Gonen Segev was summoned for questioning at Israel Police headquarters yesterday evening in connection with reports he provided a Holocaust survivor with fraudulent medical documents. Segev said he had determined the time and place of the meeting.

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Ministers must respond on time

EVELYN GORDON

CABINET secretary Shmuel Hollander has ordered all ministers to try to answer parliamentary questions within the appointed time period, following a petition to the High Court of Justice by MK Limor Livnat (Likud).

In addition, the state told the court, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Shimon Sheves sent special instructions to the Interior and Religious Affairs Ministries on this issue, since Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's ministries have been the worst offenders.

In her petition, Livnat noted that as of November 9, Rabin had failed to answer 112 parliamentary questions within the 21-day time limit set by Knesset rules. More than half of these were in his capacity as interior minister.

At yesterday's hearing, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division Nili Arad said a massive effort has been made to clear up the backlog since the petition was filed. However, Justices Dov Levine, Mishael Cheshin and Tova Strasberg-Cohen said they were less interested in the past than in making sure the problem did not recur in the future.

"When [ministers] don't reply to parliamentary questions, this shows contempt for the people," Cheshin said.

At the justices' insistence, therefore, Arad promised that ministers "will make every effort" to respond to parliamentary questions on time in the future, and detailed the instructions given by the cabinet secretary and Sheves on this issue.

Livnat then agreed to withdraw her petition, saying she was satisfied with the state's declaration.

Storms to stay

DAVID RUDGE

THUNDERSTORMS swept many parts of the country yesterday, especially in the north, while the Mt. Hermon ski site was closed due to heavy snow falls.

The meteorological service said the cold, stormy weather would intensify today with the chance of snow in hilly central districts, including Jerusalem, tonight.

The winter front is expected to remain firmly fixed over the country until Thursday when the winds and rain are slated to gradually die out, although it will remain cold.

هكذا من الزمان